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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The Confessions of an Elderly Lady. Illustrated by Eight Portraits, from highly finished Drawings by E. T. Parris. By the Countess of Blessington. 12mo. pp. 342. London, 1838. Longman and Co.

THREE brief lines were all we had it in our power to bestow upon this volume in our last Number, but they were lines of compliment, such as it is always agreeable to pay to a lady, and especially when the compliment is within the bounds of truth. We are now yet better pleased in being able to follow up what a hasty glance authorised, by a deliberate opinion of at least equal eulogy. "The Confessions of an Elderly Gentleman" is a deservedly popular work; but its present companion is, we think, superior in most respects. The niceties of feminine perception; the workings of the female heart; the innate feelings and educational restraints which control and modify the passions of the sex, shape its actions, and form its character, are all portrayed with striking fidelity. It is with these slight shades, which, like the strong colours in man's life, work out the destinies of woman, that Lady Blessington has painted the portrait of her heroine, and illustrated every turn of her fate, from over-indulged infancy to irritable and peevish age. The lesson is a fine one; the incidents full of interest, and the *dénouement* most skilful and admirable—so admirable, as to be a complete drawback upon our review. We would not mar the story by its anticipation in the slightest degree; though a quotation from that portion of the work would be the most just example we could offer of the talent of the writer, and shew within a few pages how well she can exhibit the natural with the deep markings of personal impressions, the natural with a tinge of the ridiculous, and the natural with all the appliances of moral and philosophical reflection. We dare only say, *see* the discovery of the Clarendon Papers, the last meeting with the Marquess, and the last paragraph in the book.

Thus restricted, as we have confessed, we must look elsewhere for such specimens as may serve to give some idea of this publication; and we shall begin with two or three of those axiomatic beauties which always distinguish productions of real talent and merit.

"People seem to lose all respect for the past; events succeed each other with such velocity, that the most remarkable one of a few years gone by is no more remembered than if centuries had closed over it. The present race seem to think only of the actual minute. They are prodigals, who give no thought to their predecessors, and no care to their successors."

"Next to loving, and being loved, is the pleasure of governing."

"Nature has implanted in every breast the yearning desire to be an object of sympathy and affection to its fellow. The young feel it, but they feel, too, the glad consciousness of possessing the power to excite and repay the sentiment; while the old are too well aware how unlovely is age, not to distrust the appearance of an attachment they fear they are incapable of creating. They become suspicious and

peevish from this humiliating self-knowledge, and, consequently, less worthy of the affection for which they yearn."

"In the course of life there is, perhaps, no epoch so delightful as the first hours of a passion budding into flower, but not yet full blown; when hope silences the whispers of doubt, and security has not destroyed the trembling anxiety that lends to love its strong, its thrilling excitement."

"As we approach the grave, our mother's breast, a second childhood is mercifully granted us, and we retain only the impressions which were stamped on the heart by the affections, while those of reason fade from the brain. Nature engraved the first; but experience formed the second. One is felt; the other has only been thought."

These are sparkling gems to throw over a narrative of events. Here they are not so thickly spread as in Miss Landon's "Romance and Reality" (which, like Prince Esterhazy's court dress, is almost one blaze of jewels of this kind), but they are sufficient to cast a brilliant light upon the fabric, and afford a happy relief to the common tissue of loves, and cares, and hopes, and disappointments, and sorrows. We must now, however, seek a longer passage to sustain our criticism, and we find one, little interfering with the story, in the genuine love with which a French duke is inspired by the English in Paris.

"One morning Lady Walsingham was surprised by a letter from the Duc D'Entragues, requesting an interview. He came at the appointed hour, and, in a pompous speech, in which, notwithstanding *la politesse Française*, he allowed his sense of the honour he was conferring to be somewhat too evident, formally demanded my hand. Lady Walsingham referred him to me; and he entered the saloon where I was at work, congratulating himself and me on the agreeable circumstance of not having encountered any resistance from *Madame ma mère*: 'Mothers,' he added, 'being generally desirous of preventing their daughters from forming matrimonial engagements early in life, lest they should have their seeming age increased by the circumstance of being prematurely rendered grandmothers.' I blushed with anger, which he attributed to *mauvaise honte*; and, attempting to seize my hand, he poured forth a rhapsody of compliments, a portion of which he meant for me, but a far larger part for himself. I could scarcely induce him to suppress his self-gratulations, in order that I might explain to him how misplaced they were, at least as far as I was concerned; and the expression of his countenance became perfectly ludicrous, as I explicitly and haughtily gave him an unqualified refusal. What! refuse to be a duchesse, and of one of the most ancient houses in France? He did not exactly say this, but he implied something very like it. Why, then, had my mother given her sanction? but, above all, why could I, as a dutiful daughter, presume to reject the alliance my mother had approved? Such a thing never had been heard of in France, where the hands of sons and daughters are disposed of by their parents, without even a reference to the feelings

of the parties most concerned. It was an amusing scene to behold two people, under our peculiar circumstances, defending the customs of their separate countries; the lover, in the warmth of his defence of the superior wisdom and propriety of his own national institutions, for a time losing all sight of the violent passion he pretended to experience. When, however, he did recur to it, or rather when he resumed a repetition of the catalogue of the honours and advantages which I might inherit as Madame la Duchesse D'Entragues—among which, a *tabouret* at the chaste court of Louis XV. was not omitted—I, in referring to Lady Walsingham, accidentally mentioned the words *belle mère*. 'How!' demanded he, eagerly, 'is Madame la Comtesse de Walsingham not your mother, your own real mother?' 'Certainly not,' replied I, 'how could it be possible? she is only twenty-five years old; and I shall soon be eighteen.' 'How very odd!' said he: 'yes, now that I remember, though it never struck me before, Lady Walsingham is not an old woman; *ma foi!* nor a plain one neither. *Au contraire*, she is good-looking; and only twenty-five, did you not say? *C'est bien drôle* that I never remarked this before. Permit me to ask whether Madame la Comtesse has a large fortune?' I answered in the affirmative, and stated the amount of her revenue, highly amused at observing the sudden interest excited by my information in the duc's mind, relative to one whom, according to his own confession, he had scarcely even regarded during an acquaintance of some weeks. 'I never comprehend your English money,' observed he, thoughtfully: 'six thousand pounds a-year, I think you said; how much is that in our money? How many thousand louis d'or does it make?' 'You are, doubtless, Monsieur le Duc, thinking of transferring the honour meant for me to my stepmother?' 'Another proof of my homage and *tendresse* for you,' replied he, bowing low, 'when, being so unfortunate as to be rejected by the lovely daughter, I wish to become in some way or other connected with her, by addressing my suit to her amiable relative. Would that you had a sister, charming Lady Arabella, who at all resembled you, but who was less cruel! (and he tried to look sentimental); but as, unfortunately, you have not, I must hope for consolation with *Madame votre belle mère*.' Highly diverted by the natural levity and assumed sentimentality of my *ci-devant* admirer, I asked him how he possibly could have believed that Lady Walsingham could have a daughter of my age? 'To say the truth,' answered he, frankly and gaily, 'I never thought about the matter. I heard she was your mother; and we Frenchmen, when once a lady, and above all an English lady, has passed her teens, never know whether she is twenty-four or forty-four; all from your island are so fair and rosy. However, now that my attention is called to the subject, I must admit that Madame la Comtesse de Walsingham is *bien, très bien, en vérité*, but the beauty of Miladi Arabella so far eclipses that of all other women, that I must be pardoned for overlooking that of *la belle mère*.'

We forget the stars when the moon is shining, and only remark them when that bright orb is not visible.' The duc and I parted on more friendly terms than we had ever met before. His gaiety and frivolity amused me; and the perfect frankness with which he displayed his equal indifference for her who had rejected him, and for her to whom he was intending to be a suitor, had something so irresistibly comic in it, that it was impossible not to be entertained. When he was leaving the room, I could not repress the desire of telling him, that, in case his suit was unsuccessful with my stepmother, I knew an English lady at Paris who I thought would have no objection to become Duchesse D'Entraques. 'Ah, *méchante!*' said he, smiling; but, on observing the gravity I assumed, he returned, and continued, 'Eh bien! should I be so unhappy as not to be accepted by Madame la Comtesse, I will remember your *aimable* offer, charming Lady Arabella, and claim its fulfilment; for, *en vérité*, I admire your nation so much, that I am determined to have an English wife.' The duc lost not a moment in laying his proposals at the feet, as he gallantly expressed himself, of my stepmother; who was more surprised than gratified by this transfer of his matrimonial intentions. She could scarcely believe it possible that he could so speedily and unblushingly avow a sentiment for her that little more than an hour before he had professed to entertain for me; and he appeared to find it as difficult to comprehend that she could refuse his suit—having flattered himself, from the facility with which she, as he fancied, received his overtures for me, that she thought him irresistible. All the temptations held out to me were repeated to her, with the additional one, of the possibility of her rivaling the reigning favourite of that day at Versailles, the celebrated Madame du Barry, and of acquiring an almost regal influence at court. The delicacy of Lady Walsingham precluded her from informing me of this courtier-like inducement; but the duc subsequently repeated it himself to some of my friends, as a proof of the want of spirit and of ambition of that low-born Englishwoman. But, what could he expect from the daughter of a priest—the offspring of sacrilege? He had not, however, he added, known this shocking circumstance until after he proposed, or never would he have offered her his hand. It was only in such an irreligious country as England that a priest durst acknowledge himself to be a father; or that the daughter of such an impious source could find a husband. The duc was in so perfect a state of ignorance of our religion, customs, and manners, that he could not comprehend that the ministers of our church were at liberty to marry; hence he concluded Lady Walsingham to be the offspring of sin and shame. In two days after his rejection, the *femme de chambre* of Lady Walsingham, a young Englishwoman of remarkable beauty, with tears and blushes, informed her mistress that the French duc was tormenting her with insulting proposals and letters. He had accidentally beheld the pretty Fanny; and, being disappointed in his offers to the two ladies of the family, addressed less honourable, but, perhaps, more sincere vows to the maid. She gave his letter to Lady Walsingham; and I begged it of her. The following is a faithful transcript of it:—'My pretty heart, you have charmed me. I love you, and think you much too pretty to be von *femme de chambre*. If you will love me, I will make you von *grande lady*. You shall have von *charmant entre soi*, des *bijoux*, a *femme de chambre*, and a carriage,

and never notings to do but amuse yourself, and love your devoted
LE DUC D'E.'

"My valet de chambre will bring me your ansire."

"Vexed as we were at this unprincipled attempt to corrupt the pretty and innocent Fanny, we could not resist a smile at the delectable *billet-doux*, which made no other impression on her to whom it was addressed than indignation. We quitted Paris in a few days, leaving the Duc D'Entraques to look out for new conquests, and to ridicule the want of taste of Englishwomen of all classes."

This is very playful and, though perfectly ludicrous, not overdrawn. Perhaps the same might be said of the anecdote of Jacko, earlier in the volume; and the scene with Dr. Warburton, at the Marquess of Doncaster's, further on; but, though these are, doubtless, founded on actual observation, they have a little the semblance of caricature. Of a very opposite order are the following charming remarks, which shew a fine acquaintance with the human breast.

"You are yet too young, dear Arabella," replied Lady Walsingham, "to have fathomed the secret recesses of the human heart, in which the desire of happiness is indigenous and indestructible. If robbed of the object of its affection, the grief that follows, though deep and sometimes durable, is not eternal. The regret which, during the first bitterness attending such a calamity, was violent and engrossing, becomes by the operation of time every day mitigated. The lover is conscious of this gradual change, and at first shrinks from what he believes to be an infirmity of his nature. He summons memory, with all her potent spells, to awaken the grief that slumbers; he dwells upon all the charms of the lost one, recalls all her love; and imagination, excited by recollection, supplies the place, and, for a brief space, enacts the part of grief. Gratitude aids this self-deception, which is peculiar to fine natures; the lost are thought of, talked of, and referred to, with tenderness, long after the survivor is consoled for their loss: nay, he frequently perseveres in premeditatedly offering this homage to the manes of the departed, as an expiation for an involuntary oblivion of them. You know not, and may you never know, dear Arabella, the shame, the tender regret, and self-reproach, with which a sensitive mind first becomes sensible that it can be consoled for a loss, the regret for which, when first experienced, was imagined to be eternal. But when the place once occupied by the departed is usurped by a new, perhaps a dearer object,—for grief increases the susceptibility, and tends to make the second attachment more fond than the former,—in proportion to the sensitiveness of the feelings of the lover will be the recollections given to the dead; recollections that do not rob the living of the slightest portion of his tenderness, but which rather originate in his deep consciousness of the force of his present attachment. He who devoted not a pensive thought to the memory of a buried love will never be capable of fidelity to a living one. Such regrets are not the offspring of sorrow: they are the funeral flowers with which, while animated by hope of happiness, the survivor decks the grave of one for whose loss he is consoled."

With this we would conclude, but that we have one word of censure to bestow on the accomplished author. Why has she introduced such French words and phrases as "*chers*," "*convenable parité*," "*séjour*," &c. &c.? It is not done to any extent, we grant; but, why

should one who can write her own language so forcibly and so elegantly as Lady Blessington, give the slightest countenance to the tribe of silly scribblers who are addicted to this nonsensical practice? Of Parris's eight portraits, we can only repeat that we know not which is most lovely. They are, indeed, delightful illustrations of the story.

South America and the Pacific; comprising a Journey across the Pampas and the Andes, from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso, Lima, and Panama, with Remarks upon the Isthmus. By the Hon. P. Campbell Scarlett. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1838. Colburn; Paris, Warée.

A GALLOP across Salisbury Plain is something to exhilarate the mind; a ride among the Grampians enough to delight and elevate it; but when you come to a thousand miles of level, a burst fit for a fox-hunter of antediluvian size, age, and speed, and terminated by a mountain range looking down on either mighty ocean,—Atlantic on one side and Pacific on the other,—from a height of ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-three thousand feet above the turmoil of waters; then, indeed, there must be an excitement and a stir of spirits, such as indwellers in home or middle counties, in towns, yea in Lincolnshire, Bath, the Lothians, Edinburgh, Herefordshire, or Hay on the Hill, can only imagine to be unimaginably grand, and invigorating to the soul.

In these, our native scenes, our return is greeted with, "I hope you have enjoyed your ride?" "How did the mare go?" "The old nag is quite fresh, not a hair turned!" "You have only time to dress for dinner!" and such like: in those, their South American scenes, it might be (if the riders were not too tired to talk, and almost too sleepy to eat), "How many horses have you killed to-day?" "How often have you been thrown?" "Do you wish eight or eleven lassoed for your scamper to-morrow?" "Off with your spurs, bolt this bit of beef from the stick, and down on its quodam hide for a snooze, if the musquitoes will let you!"

Such are the differences between climes and nations; and those who would like a lively picture of the distant chase will do well to accompany our young countryman, Mr. Scarlett. Of his work generally we may say that it is just what might be expected from a young English gentleman of education and talent; light, buoyant, and pleasing, such as the rapid nature of his excursion and hurried opportunities for observation would admit. From London he accompanied Mr. Hamilton, our Envoy to Buenos Ayres, touching at Madeira, Monte Video, &c. on the way. From the narrative of this portion of his Journey we shall select only three brief notes.

Of a dinner at Rio de Janeiro, Mr. S. says—"It was good, considering the climate, where, as an experienced diplomatist has observed, fish generally stinks a little before it is caught."

And at Buenos Ayres we have a tolerable Yankee anecdote:—"The North American squadron, which was stationed here, has just left Buenos Ayres on a cruise. The Yankee officers, as some of them 'guessed,' 'harmonised considerably' with those of the North Star. One, who lately joined me accidentally in my ride, used pretty freely the privilege of those travellers, who have sailed round Cape Horn, of spinning a yarn to astonish the inexperienced part of mankind. Talking of great distances performed by the gauchos on horseback, he declared they were nothing to the

feats of the officers of the United States' navy at Valparaiso. 'Why, sir, what I tell you is a *ge-nu-ine* fact: our officers would often ride ninety-five miles to Santiago, drink a cup of coffee, smoke a cigar, and then ride *slick* back again the same night to sleep.'

Our third note is of more grave import, and giving the opinion of Senor Santo Amaro, the Brazil proprietor of a large estate, is well worthy of attention:—"His conversation (Mr. S. informs us) was chiefly on the future prospects of Brazil; and he particularly adverted to Wil-mot Horton's emigration system, which, he said, might be of immense advantage, if it were to be encouraged, for the colonisation of this country. He foresaw great reason to dread the overwhelming majority of the black population, the disproportion of which to the whites was a constant source of anxiety to the government. On this account, in particular, he had often wished to encourage Mr. Horton in his scheme for relieving England of her superfluous population."

Having skimmed over the previous way, we shall now set out from Buenos Ayres: the party consisting of Mr. Scarlett, Dr. McLean, and a Patagonian guide, of Patagonian strength and stature. The ride was only thirteen days, the distance across the Pampas to Mendoza 936 miles; and, allowing for detentions, the average on horseback, ninety miles a-day. With the mode of travelling, Captain Head and other writers have made us so familiar, that we need only illustrate it in this instance by a few peculiar traits. At one of their nights' resting-places (if resting-places they could be called), Mr. S. says:—

"We have brought a good deal of the famous *yerba* or *maté* with us, and I begin almost to prefer it to tea, when made by the natives, who seem alone perfectly to understand the mode of mixing this beverage. The leaf of the *maté* (*Ilex paraguayensis*) is of the holly tribe. It grows wild in all the woods near the rivers and streams of Paraguay. It is an evergreen, with elliptical leaves, and the stem will grow to the size of a man's thigh. To bring this Paraguay tea into use, the leaves are slightly scorched by drawing the branch itself through the fire. Then the leaves are roasted, broken up, and pressed for packing. The Spaniards derived the custom of taking this tea from the Indians. A calabash serves for a teacup, into which, after a pinch of the leaves is put, boiling water is poured, and the infusion is then sucked into the mouth through a hollow silver, tin, or cane tube, which is called a *bombillio*. The common joke of the country is, to induce a stranger to apply the metal instrument to his mouth unthinkingly; for, if the operation is not cautiously managed, the novice is sure to repent his rashness. Not only is the water boiling, but the tube itself has become heated to a most painful degree when the tea is first made. If immoderately used, this tea is said to produce diseases similar to those occasioned by indulging in strong liquors; though it does not affect the head. But I should imagine, from the simplicity of the taste, that the idea must be a prejudice. The mosquitoes and fleas were abominable here; and I got only a very short sleep during the night. It is now just light enough to write, which I am doing whilst our breakfast and horses are getting ready.—Post-hut, three o'clock. Started before sunrise—no delays now—fine fresh air—good spirits. Passed a coral with a number of screaming paroquets perched on the stakes which enclosed it. As we galloped over one part of the plain this morning, we put up a

number of wild ostriches from the long grass. They crossed our path with extended wings, making long strides, and, when at a distance, had the appearance of men running. Several deer also jumped up, quite close to us. They were of a moderate size, without horns, and of a dark fawn colour."

Again:—"From the river Plata to the territory of Mendoza, trees are rarely seen in any numbers, except on the banks of the rivers, and even there they seldom grow to any height. The *algaroba*, seen occasionally on the Pampas, is a species of *acacia*, bearing a pod containing seeds that are said to be, when peeled, as good as nutgalls, for making ink. There is also another sort, common, I believe, in Upper Peru or Bolivia, which bears a berry eaten by the natives, and of which *chicha* is made; an inebriating drink invented by the Indians. The fermentation of this detestable beverage is produced by adding to the water in which it is steeped, a quantity of human saliva. The women chew the berry first, and then pour water upon it. The air plants common in Buenos Ayres are a singular variety of nature. I have seen them growing round the iron balcony of a window without any root, a peculiarity which entitles them to the name of air plants. Some of them have a fragrant smell. In Paraguay there is a species of creeper called *Gueñé*, growing from the hollow trunks of decayed trees. This class is long, straight, and flexible, without any knots, and when the bark is peeled off the roots, it can be twisted into ropes and cables for ships. The fibres of the *aloe* at Buenos Ayres have also been used for making ropes. During one stage my horse fell, from fatigue and want of wind, and would have rolled upon me; but as I lay on my back, I luckily pushed him hard with my foot, which turned the balance, and over he went on the other side, whilst I got up quietly, unhurt, and remounted him. This is the first fall I have had. Maclean got one this evening as he endeavoured to mount a young and timid horse. Before his leg was well thrown across the saddle the animal plunged violently, and gave his rider so severe a fall, that he has not yet recovered from the effects of it. We reached a place called *Frailé Muerto*, to sleep; a village with about twenty houses in it, on the banks of the *Tercero*. Here I tried to bathe, but was disappointed. The water was deep and rapid, and the banks were so slippery, that however easy to slip in, *revocare gradum*, to get out again, would have been an insurmountable difficulty. We found here a shop with cotton goods, and plenty of bread. Of the latter we bought enough for that evening and two more days. At only one place before have we met with bread in any quantity. Generally, to our demand for it, the answer has been, 'No hay, Senor, no hay,' in a tone expressive of surprise and contempt for any body who could be so unreasonable as to ask, or even wish, for any other food but beef. To-morrow at daylight we start again."

When they arrived at the village of Rio Quarto, on the river of that name, the account improves.

"We were better lodged and better fed than we had yet been on our journey, and our sleep, for the first time, was undisturbed by mosquitoes. The fact is, that we have been gradually, though imperceptibly, ascending for the last two days, and have, we hope, taken leave of these nuisances for a long time; as they confine themselves chiefly to the low wet plains which we have left behind us. We started at sunrise this morning, with a fine fresh keen air

in our faces. Our route was over a still more undulating surface than that of yesterday, with the *Sierre* of Cordova right before us, and the grass looking quite green and luxuriant. The climate now has become excellent—better, I think, than that of Italy. The air, both in the morning and the evening, is quite dry and bracing and the never-failing breeze, which prevails during the day, renders the sun less intolerable. The little horses here must be indebted to the climate for their surprising vigour; for though they are ridden under every disadvantage, being full of grass, over-weighted, and out of condition, they, nevertheless, do wonders. I have, myself, reason to be most grateful for the health which the climate and the ride together have restored to me. I left Buenos Ayres out of spirits, and not recovered entirely from illness; but I am now so well, and so full of energy, that I would not relapse into my old habit of feeling for a kingdom."

The later days of the journey were, however, rendered less agreeable by constant alarms of attacks from marauding Indians, who were on a foray in these parts; but by whom our travellers had the good fortune not to be discovered.

"We rode" (says the journal) "very fast to a post called Baranquita, at the foot of a hill. On reaching it I was struck with the absence of all the men; all the animals, too, had disappeared, except one calf which was tied to a stake. This desolation extended to the inside of a farm-yard, surrounded by mud walls, which we entered by a wooden door. A great *umbú* tree stood in the middle, casting a broad shade over the place; but nowhere was any living creature to be seen. Presently up started from an inner nook on the premises, first a half-naked boy and an old man, and then another person. We were informed that the report of the approach of the Indians had induced these poor people to send their women into a village close to the next post among the hills; and that, expecting a visit from these unwelcome guests, and hearing the sound of our horses' hoofs, they never stopped to ascertain the fact, but fled from their supposed enemies without casting a look behind. So great was their alarm that it was not without some menaces of coercion on our part, that these unfortunate wretches were induced to go out and lasso fresh horses, to enable us to proceed. They could think of nothing but the Indians whom they expected to encounter at every turn:

"Still as they run they look behind,
And hear a voice in every wind."

What a life of misery the poor gauchos lead in their lonely homes! Since their emancipation from old Spain, the Argentine states have never had a sufficient military force to protect them from the invasion of marauding Indians, who harass the country in all directions for plunder; always making for the least defended points, and moving with incredible celerity. A savage yell at the dead of night at once arouses the sleeping gaucho, and informs him of his danger. The house is surrounded; the daughters dragged into bondage; and the corpses of fathers, brothers, and sons, mangled and hewn barbarously into pieces, are left amidst the smoking embers of their dwellings, to inform the next traveller of the cruelties of the Indian."

Further on it is stated of these savages, and particularly of the tribe called *Araucanians*:—

"The wilder and more remote tribes, who leave their distant regions to plunder the provinces, and return with the spoil, use a lance of eighteen feet long, pointed with bone,

and are so dexterous that, without fire-arms, the Spanish cavalry could not resist their attack. Their superstitious horror of fire-arms, has, however, of late years, been removed; and they will now, I am told, charge cavalry and infantry, under fire, with the most astonishing recklessness. They are always on horseback, often naked, without even a hat; and though they inhabit huts of ox-hide when encamped on their own plains, they will lie out on the bare ground all night, when at war, or in pursuit of their enemies, without any covering, and in all weather. Their wars with the Spaniards have made them more cruel than they would naturally have been; for they expect no quarter, and their hatred and fury are raised to such a pitch against the gauchos, that they seldom are content to put them to death, without the additional vengeance of mangling and cutting their bodies in pieces. The young women and children whom they find are then taken up behind, on their horses, and galloped into slavery; and it is said that some of the women have, at last, preferred the new ties formed among their wild captors, and refused to abandon them when retaken. They live under a cacique, and have no fixed abode, but are determined in their migratory movements by the fineness and quantity of pasture for their horses, or by some scheme for robbing the huts of the gauchos, and stealing the contents of their corals. They eat mare's flesh,—keeping their horses only for riding; and they consider it a great luxury (and it is their only one that approaches to cleanliness) to bathe their hair in mare's blood. They believe in good and evil spirits; and if an Indian dies before his time by any natural cause, the blame is often attached to some individual of another tribe, who is presumed to have been influenced by an evil spirit to kill him, and wars are said to be not unfrequently the result of this suspicion. They have some notion of another world, in which they will be always drunk or galloping, and they believe that the stars are their deceased ancestry hunting in the heavens."

Having, notwithstanding their vicinity to these gentle creatures, reached Mendoza in safety, our travellers reposed awhile, and then departed to cross the Andes for Valparaiso, choosing the Portillo in preference to the nearer and more common Uspallata pass. Of this branch of the journey, we shall merely observe, that it affords all the contrasts which precipitous mountain travel can offer to level plain. At Santiago, Mr. Scarlett remarks:—

"Mining is the branch of industry for which Chile is most celebrated. Far in the interior, such rich veins of silver, as well as of copper, have been recently discovered, that they must form a source of considerable profit, as soon as the government is sufficiently settled to encourage enterprise and capital. The merest chance will often lead to the discovery of a silver-mine. A short time ago a peasant was driving an ass across the country, and observed the animal strike its foot against a large stone. On approaching that spot, the stone was a mass of silver protruding above the earth. At the bottom of the mine of Santa Rosa, near Iquique in Peru, a fossil marine shell was discovered 600 feet below the surface, which was filled entirely with silver ore. When the knowledge of mining in South America increases, means will probably be found of working the ore at less expense; but, I believe, it is still a common remark, that, if a man find a copper-mine, he is sure to gain; if a silver-mine, he may gain; but, if a gold-mine, he is sure to lose. A sort of coal is used in the bay

of Talcahuana, the quality and usefulness of which is much disputed; but in the island of San Lorenzo, near Callao, there is a better specimen. These facts are important to be known by those who contemplate the introduction of steam-boats along the coast of the Pacific, where, from the invariable direction of the trades, and the prevalence of calms near the land, there is very great difficulty in performing voyages from the north to the south in sailing-vessels. The commercial intercourse between England and Chile is now greater than between Great Britain and any other South American port, except the port of Rio de Janeiro."

The plan alluded to in the foregoing extract is the great feature of Mr. Scarlett's Work. Mr. Wheelwright, an American gentleman, has, it appears, been diligently engaged in maturing the important, often suggested, and much discussed scheme,* for effecting a transit between the Pacific and Atlantic across the Isthmus of Panama; and is now anxious to bring it forward, in conjunction with a plan for navigating the Pacific with steam-vessels.

"His plans (says our Author) appeared to me ably and accurately stated, and are consistent with the impressions I received myself in those countries. Feeling the advantages which must accrue to the commercial world from the establishment of steam communication along the whole western coast of the Americas, particularly if it could, hereafter, be combined with railroads or canals across Central America or the Isthmus to unite the two seas, I determined, with Mr. Wheelwright's assistance, to bring his observations as well as my own on the same subject, more under public notice. The promotion of these views is, I am convinced, calculated to produce inestimable benefit to the general interests of trade, and will also have the effect, if adopted, of bringing remote regions of the globe full of natural resources, more under the influence of a better social and political atmosphere. Mr. Wheelwright's long experience of those countries entitles his opinions to considerable weight; and, I may add, that the respect entertained for his character by all the British merchants in South America with whom he has been in the habit of frequent intercourse, and their attachment to him personally, founded on a knowledge of his integrity and prudence, and of his character for indefatigable zeal in whatever he undertakes, seem to render this gentleman a most efficient person for carrying so important a design into execution."

An appendix contains much information on this subject, and several maps further elucidate it, as well as the routes pursued by Mr. Scarlett; but these are matters on which the *Literary Gazette* need not dwell. Parties interested in such affairs will refer to the Work for information and explanations. We shall only add, that Mr. S. gives us neat sketches of the people and places he visited after leaving Valparaiso; such as of Lima, whither he went by sea, and found in a strange condition, owing to the revolt of Salaverry, and the brigands infesting and surrounding the city; of Payta, and of Panama, and of his crossing thence to the Gulf of Darien, all which is very interesting. Of the last movement, he tells us:—

"The actual time I occupied in crossing the

* Papers on this interesting subject appeared in the *Literary Gazette* years ago; and, we believe, we have the details, measurements, &c. among our papers.—*Ed. Lit. Gaz.*

Isthmus from the Pacific to the Atlantic, deducting the delay at Cruces, was seventeen hours; eight hours from Panama to Cruces, and nine from Cruces to Chagres."

Such space could offer no very serious resistance to the science of engineering; and when we look upon a map, we cannot but be struck with the vast importance which a ready and easy means of crossing the Isthmus of Panama must be to the commerce of England, and of the world.

Sketches in London. No. V. By the Author of "Random Recollections," "The Great Metropolis," &c. &c. London, 1838. Orr. In noticing a former No. of this periodical, we took some curious extracts relative to the trade of Match-making;—the present No. treats of a far more important matter, viz., the increase of Penny Theatres. It is true that the writer forsakes the chief questions involved in this inquiry, as, indeed, he must have done, in order to make his essay popular with the class of readers to which it is principally addressed; and tries to furnish facetious accounts of the managers, the actors, the audiences, and their squabbles and quarrels: but there is not, perhaps, in all our vast metropolis, one subject of higher statistical, moral, or national interest. The origin and diffusion of crime to be traced to these Penny Theatres are enormous; and there is not a prison belonging to any populous town in the empire which would not bear melancholy and frightful evidence of the effects generated and perpetrated through their influence. If ever it is to be maintained that Prevention is better than Punishment, we are free to tell the magistracy, the police, and all other competent authorities in the kingdom, that the sooner and the more effectually they extirpate these nurseries and hotbeds of guilt, the more to their credit will it be, and the more for the weal of the public. To this general admonition we shall only add a few particulars, which support it, from the pen of the writer.

"Penny Theatres, or 'Gaffs,' as they are usually called by their frequenters, are places of juvenile resort in the metropolis which are known only by name to the great mass of the population. I myself knew nothing of these places in any other way, until I lately visited a number of them with the view of making them the subject of one of my sketches. With regard to their statistics, I must still confess myself to be to a certain extent, ignorant. There exist no means for ascertaining satisfactorily either their number or the number of the young persons in the habit of attending them. Other facts, however, I have succeeded in learning, though not without personal inquiry, respecting these cheap places of juvenile amusement. They exist only, as would have been inferred from what I shall afterwards have occasion to state, though I had not mentioned the thing, in poor and populous neighbourhoods. There is not a single one of them to be met with in any respectable part of the town. It needs but little, if any philosophy, to account for this. Respectable parents would never allow their children to visit such places. Their great patrons are the children, not only of poor parents, but of parents who pay no attention to the morals of their offspring. Though the number of penny theatres in London cannot be ascertained with certainty, it is beyond all question that they are very numerous. They are to be found in all the poor and populous districts. At the east end of the town, they literally swarm as to numbers. Ratcliffe Highway, the Commercial Road, Mile-end Road, and other places in that direction, are thickly studded with Penny Theatre. St. George's in the Fields can boast of a fair sprinkling of them; in the New Cut alone I know of three. In the neighbourhood of the King's Cross there are several; while in the west end of Marylebone they are not only numerous, but some of them are of a very large size. One of them, I understand, in Paddington, is capable of containing two thousand persons; and, what is more, is usually filled in every part: or, as the proprietors say, is honoured with 'brilliant and overflowing audiences.' Incredible as it may appear, I am assured that, by some means or other, the proprietors of one of these penny establishments in the western part of the metropolis have actually procured a license! In Marylebone, I know, some of them, conducted on a very extensive scale, have lately, in consequence of memorials to that effect being presented to the vestry by the more respectable portion of the neighbouring inhabitants, been put down as regular nuisances. It can scarcely be necessary to say, that

all the other penny theatres are unlicensed. I should suppose, from all the inquiries I have made, that the entire number of these places in London is from 50 to 100. Assuming, as wishing to be under rather than above the mark, the lowest number to be correct, there will be little difficulty in making a conjecture, which may approximate to the truth, as to the average number of youths in the habit of nightly attending these places. The average attendance at those penny establishments which have come under my own observation I should estimate at 150; but then a large proportion of these places have, in the winter season, from two to nine distinct audiences — or, to keep up the phraseology of the proprietors, 'houses,' each night. About three-quarters of an hour's worth of tragedy, or comedy, or farce, or, very likely, all three hashed up together, is all that is allowed for a penny; and a very good pennyworth the actors think it is, too, though the little urchins who principally form the audience often think very differently. At the end of the 'first house' there is a clearing out of the audience, which is followed by the ingress of another of 'little fellows.' If any one choose to treat himself to the second 'entertainment for the evening,' it is all well, only he must pay for his pleasure by the prompt production of penny the second; and so on, at each successive 'house,' till the last scene of the evening. In many cases, each 'house' has its two pieces and a song; thus allowing about twenty minutes to each piece, and five minutes to the doggerel dignified with the name of song. Supposing (which certainly is a moderate computation) that forty out of the assumed eighty penny theatres have several 'thursdays' of 'houses' every night, and average 450 patrons, that would give an entire aggregate nightly attendance of 18,000; to which if we add, for the other forty penny establishments which are supposed to have only one 'house' per night, 6000, we should have an entire average attendance on the penny theatres of the metropolis of 24,000. The audiences at these places, as has been already intimated, almost exclusively consist of the youthful part of the community. Now and then, it is true, you will see an audience diversified by some coal-heaver, rejoicing in a dove-tailed hat, which completely overpreads his neck and shoulders; or, it may be, an adult chimney-sweep, whose sooty visage, with his hair graced by nightcap, is sure to attract the eye of the visitor. But grown-up personages are rarely to be seen in such places; youths, from eight to sixteen years of age, are the great patrons of such places. There is always a tolerable sprinkling of girls at the penny theatres; but, usually, the boys considerably predominate. No one who has not visited these establishments — if, indeed, it be not a misnomer to use the word — could have the faintest conception of the intense interest with which boys in the poorer neighbourhoods of London regard them. With thousands, the desire to witness the representations at the penny theatres amounts to an absolute passion. They are present every night; and would at any time infinitely sooner go without a meal than be deprived of that gratification. There can be no question that these places are no better than so many nurseries for juvenile thieves. The little rascals, when they have no other way of getting pence to pay for their admission, commence by stealing articles out of their parents' houses, which are forthwith put in pledge for whatever can be got for them; and the transition from theft committed on their parents to stealing from others is natural and easy. Nor is this all: at these penny theatres, the associations which boys form with one another are more destructive of morality than the one which occurs on the other in crime. Plans for thieving, and robbing houses and shops, and other places, by way of joint-stock concerns, are there formed and promptly executed, unless the little rogues be detected in the act. Then there are the pieces which are performed at these places, which are of the most injurious kind, as I shall afterwards have occasion to state at greater length. The dexterous thief or villain, of any kind, is always the greatest hero and the most popular personage with these youths; and such are the personages, as a matter of course, who are most liberally brought on the stage, if so it must be called, for their gratification. I have not a doubt, that a very large majority of those who afterwards find their way to the bar of the Old Bailey may trace the commencement of their career in crime to their attendance in penny theatres."

Of the miserably performers we are told,—

"The severity of the privations which these parties are often doomed to undergo, will at once be inferred when I state what are the usual salaries they receive. Fourteen-pence per night — and this, be it observed, for performing, it may be, in six or seven pieces — is thought a high rate of remuneration for the histrionic services of a poor wretch acting at a penny theatre. Ten-pence, or five shillings per week, is the more common rate of salary. How the poor creatures manage to subsist at all on this, I am at a loss to know; for, between remembrance through the day and committing new pieces to memory, they have no time even if they had the opportunity, to endeavour to eke out a miserable existence in any other way. But even this is not all. I know many instances in which penny-theatre performers have a wife and three or four children dependent on them for support. The audiences at the penny theatres are generally of the lowest order. They are not only fond of extremes, but will tolerate nothing else. Comedy is completely proscribed by them: they must either have the deepest tragedy or the broadest farce. In the tragic way, they evince a remarkably strong predilection for 'horrible murders,' and the moment that accounts of

any such occurrence appear in the newspapers, a piece, embodying the most shocking incidents in that occurrence, is got up for representation at these establishments. The recent atrocity, known by the name of the Edgeware murder, was quite a windfall to many of the penny theatres. Pieces, founded on the most frightful of the circumstances connected with it, were forthwith got up, and acted to crowded houses, amidst great applause. It will hardly be believed, yet such is the fact, that so late as November last — that is, full ten months after the occurrence took place — it was represented in these establishments to numerous audiences. The following is a verbatim copy of one of the placards, announcing it for a particular night, as a leading piece for the benefit of one of the performers:—

FOR THE BENEFIT OF MR. TWIG.
On Tuesday next will be performed the grand national drama
OF
GREENACRE,
OR
The Murder of Carpenter's Buildings.

"I may here observe," says the writer, in conclusion, "not having done so when speaking of the number of penny theatres, that they are rapidly on the increase. The oldest of them is of comparatively modern growth; and, if they continue for a few years to increase as rapidly as they have done for the last five or six years, they cannot fail to attract the attention of the magistrates. If not the legislature itself. I am quite satisfied, from what I have myself witnessed at these establishments, — to say nothing of what has been communicated to me by persons whose word or opportunities of acquiring correct information I had no reason to question, — that they do incalculable mischief to the morals of the youths who frequent them. I could, indeed, refer to particular cases, in confirmation of the injurious consequences to the morals of both sexes from attendance on penny theatres; but that is unnecessary. One has only to spend a single half hour in one of these places, to see and hear what is passing, to be convinced of their highly immoral tendency. A few visits to penny theatres, by the moralist or philanthropist, could not fail to afford information which might be made conducive to the interests of society."

Such are the ways and means by which such evils are wrought. Surely, in a civilised and Christian community, something should be done effectually to put down the shame and sin of such temptations to every species of crime.

A Dissertation on the Causes and Effects of Disease considered in reference to the Moral Constitution of Man. By Henry Clark Barlow, M.D. 8vo. pp. 79. Edinburgh, 1838. Black; London, Longman and Co.

Nothing has tended to give so great an impulse to the elementary and philosophical portion of medical science as the dissemination of these doctrines, which bring into their true light the adaptation of disease to the moral constitution of man, in relation to this world, and also in relation to a future. Viewed in this light, instead of a lengthened and terrible array of maladies inherent to the human frame, we have either a list of punishments in this world, of some infringement of the natural or moral laws, or we have incontrovertible proofs of the wisdom and goodness of God.

It is to be observed, however, that these things are to be taken not only individually, but hereditarily and collectively; and we are not, therefore, to assign all evils to which the flesh is liable to error on the part of the sufferer. If a young lady walk home from a heated apartment, with a kerchief round her head, and subsequently perishes of slow consumption, there was a punishment for the infringement of a natural law. If, on the other hand, the intellect and health of a young man become debased and ruined by libertinism, there is the equally evident punishment for an infringement of a moral law; but if the same young man, by marriage, entails upon his offspring debility and disease, there is an hereditary punishment, just, because it teaches to man the severe lesson of rectitude; and, lastly, the same thing may act collectively in a variety of ways. A feudal origin of old Edinburgh's high houses and narrow closes, as Combe has long ago pointed out, became the seat of fires, dissoluteness, and disease. The nature of the property

in Lambeth has impeded the widening and improvement of certain parts of that populous neighbourhood, which is the seat of sickness, violent passions, and pursuits, and much crime. The habits of the Constantinopolitans, as well as their houses and streets, entitle them to the frequent retributive justice of a visit of fire and plague; and the want of proper tillage renders portions of Italy a scourge to low and virulent fevers.

Dr. Barlow has discussed these subjects and others closely allied to them, in a brief, but clear and lucid manner; and we cannot but express our wish, that they may have the very widest possible circulation. We have, upon more than one occasion, given our adhesion to principles of the same kind. We think that they are not only calculated to remove prejudices from every one, but also to lead to far more comprehensive notions of the origin of diseases among the profession. They also shew the necessity of sanitary laws, and, above all, they inculcate the advantages of individual moral control, for to use the words of the author:—

"Diseases are, in the great majority of cases, traceable to the neglect of moral and physical laws, and are, therefore, not to be considered evils, but the right remedies for evils; that is, for states of things at variance with those laws, their ultimate effect being to increase the capacity of the human species for happiness, by causing a gradual removal of whatever is opposed to it."

"That the phenomena of disease are so regulated and ordered as to produce the least possible inconvenience compatible with the attainment of the proposed end."

"That the very circumstance of their production has been made to furnish good to mankind independent of their ultimate object; and while the necessity for their existence continues, they are made conducive to the furtherance of our highest hopes."

An Essay on the Antiquities of Hindoo Medicine, including an Introductory Lecture to the Course of Materia Medica, and Therapeutics, delivered at King's College. By J. F. Royle, M.D. F.R. and S.S. &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 196. London, 1837. Allen and Co. Churchill.

THIS is a work possessing very considerable interest. Professor Royle is well known to have devoted his energies with great success to the illustration of the natural history of various portions of India; and, more particularly, to those subjects which are in use in the arts and medicine, or which form, or have formed, objects of commerce. The inquiry is one of great magnitude; and, notwithstanding the great number of facts which the Professor, when resident in India, had been enabled to collect, still the field remained so far from exhausted, that, on his return to this country, one of his first objects appears to have been, through the Asiatic Society, to stimulate other persons to the same productive line of inquiry, and one which promises so much to science and to commerce.

The present work will be read with intense interest by all who have any acquaintance with the natural productions of our Indian possessions. It is replete with notices equally novel and curious, and exhibits, in a very strong light, the advantages to be obtained for commerce by scientific information. By studying the properties of plants, in relation to their natural affinities, the author has been led to a number of discoveries, calculated

to enlarge the domain of *Materia Medica*. One illustration of this is of a striking character. "Having been previously employed in considering the proper means for extending the cultivation of silk in India, it struck me as singular, that so many of the plants which silkworms prefer, next to the mulberry leaf, should be found in those families which yield caoutchouc. Thus, in England, the lettuce and dandelion leaves, belonging to *Chicoracea*, and in India, *Ficus religiosa*, belonging to the *Artocarpeae*, have been ascertained (with a species of *Scorzinera*) to be the best substitutes for the leaves of the mulberry; while the Arind silk-worm of India (*Phalena cynthia*) feeds upon those of the castor-oil plant (*Recinus communis*) belonging to *Euphorbiaceae*. Considering that a circumstance of this nature was not likely to be accidental, I was induced to think that it depended upon the presence of some principle common to all these vegetables; and, therefore, that caoutchouc (perhaps in a modified state) might really be contained in the juice of the mulberry, though this is described as not being milky. I therefore requested Mr. Sievier, who has made so many discoveries in the properties of caoutchouc, to ascertain whether my conjecture was well founded. In a few days he informed me that the mulberry-tree sap was of a milky nature, and did actually contain caoutchouc, especially on dry and bright sunny days."

At the present moment, we would particularly call attention to the chapter on the ancient commercial communications up the Euphrates, and across Arabia, to Syria, Palestine, and Lower Egypt.

PERSIAN PRINCES IN ENGLAND.
[Second Notice: Conclusion.]

WE continue our extracts from these entertaining volumes, and, though perhaps more entertaining than instructive, yet, as it is said we may often gather information from the prattle of children, so may we be taught some things worth knowing of ourselves from the remarks of these children of another clime. After the spectacles noticed in our last, our princes were taken to the Caledonian Hall; where, among other matters, we are told—

"The bagpipers struck up some pibroch; on which the prince, pricking up his ears, with a start, exclaimed, 'What is that? that is Persian music! *Wullah!* that is my own country music. Hush! let me listen.' And he leaned his head on one side as one does to catch a delicious strain. In fact, to unaccustomed ears, the sounds were not unlike the clangour of the *nokara khaneh*, or band that plays at stated intervals above the gates of eastern princes; although an enthusiastic Highlander might not be altogether pleased with the comparison. As the pibroch continued, and the measure quickened, the prince became quite agitated. '*Ai-wahi! ai-wahi!*' said he, shaking his head slowly from side to side, 'that is true Iranee; it brings my own country quite to my view! That is just the strain they play when we go to fight. *Ai-wahi! ai-wahi!*' And his eyes, half filled with tears, were actually dancing in his head. It was well that the music ceased before his agitation became quite ungovernable, as seemed likely soon to be the case."

Incessant sight-seeing and visiting became the order of the day and of the night; and Mr. Fraser had plenty ad to carry the lions about with him. A grand review in the Park especially delighted Timour, who was a guest at Mrs. Windham Lewis's on the occasion.

The Colosseum astonished them beyond measure;* and Wyatt's monument to the Princess Charlotte, at Windsor, highly affected them.† The Diorama, and Parris's wonderful painting, also, afforded them much pleasure; as did an inspection of Woolwich, with the artillery and bomb practice there.

Through excess of amusement, the inevitable consequences, fatigue and listlessness, ensued; and, having no object of sufficient interest to stir and occupy their minds, the princes, like all the rest of the fashionable world, became utterly tired with balls, routs, at-homes, *soirées*, and even dinner-parties, though it must be confessed that they entered into the pleasures of good living with a gusto that would have done honour to French or English epicurism. Champagne was a very favourite beverage with them; and we are telling an anecdote, untold by (probably unknown to) Mr. Fraser, when we state, that when they went to dine with the Turkish ambassador, they swore the Turks were a stupid people not to drink wine, and absolutely furnished themselves with pocket-pistols of their pet tippie, wherewith to cheer themselves, secretly and unseen, as opportunity offered!!

In other respects they were frequently playful enough. Thus, on their way to see the Thames Tunnel, the author says,—

"Having stopped at the house of an artist in the city as we went along, they were much gratified by some of his pictures; and acknowledged the great merit of one which represented the battle of Trafalgar, and was, I believe, about to be presented to his majesty, although the wali regarded the subject with a hydrophobic shudder. But I was amused with a remark made, I think, by Timour Meerza: one of the company having praised the execution of the sky in a certain picture, 'Ah!' said he, 'he must know well how to paint the sky, seeing that he lives so near it.' The studio was at the very top of the house, which was a high one, and the prince had been almost wearied in ascending to it."

It was only when wearied with three or four parties of a night, that they gave way to ill-humour, and disliked further exertion, as the description of the trip to Woolwich shews. Mr. F. says,—

"Among the objects which, it was believed,

"* They appeared quite to understand that it was a painting upon a sheet, for they asked whether such and such things were or were not on the *purdeh* (or screen); and '*ai Barikillah, ai Barikillah!*' burst continually from their mouths, while the slow wagging of the head denoted their delight at each new object which required and obtained explanation. And 'How far may that place there be from where we stand?' 'Just fifty feet.' '*Ajaeb*, and it looks as if it were two fursuks (seven or eight miles) off!' '*Mashallah*, what an *ostade* (master) the painter must be! And it is true, all true; it is a *tucht* (plank, or plane surface) above, for there are the cracks in the plaster; and see! there is the point where the *purdeh* begins: you see no cracks there: wonderful! God is great!' They were told the time and price which the painting had cost,—forty thousand pounds, I think, and six years of hard work. '*Me-arrad*,—it is worth it all,' said they with a nod of consent. To persons unaccustomed to hear of great monied speculations, it was no small surprise to hear that the 200,000, which this establishment cost to the first projectors, was all private outlay; but their wonder was still greater at being told that it had already cleared off two-thirds of its original cost, and would soon become a source of great profit. They were interested greatly in the whole concern, and went to the top to see the real view of London obtained from thence, but that did not please them half as much as the painted city; and they withdrew, assuring me that they had been infinitely gratified, and that they must often again come to visit 'London' in the Colosseum."

† They were very strongly impressed by the monument of the late lamented Princess Charlotte, whose story called forth many expressions of sorrow, for they remembered having heard of it in Persia; and they fully entered into the sculptor's idea of the soul escaping towards heaven from the mortal remains which lie mute and motionless below."

would be most pleasing to the princes in the vicinity of London, was the arsenal at Woolwich, and the practice there. Directions had, accordingly, been issued for exhibiting those to their royal highnesses, and this was the day appointed for the purpose. They were themselves desirous of witnessing a spectacle so much to their taste; yet, when I arrived at the hotel, within half an hour of the time for starting, not one of them was out of bed. 'Ah!' said the prince, on hearing my voice at his room-door, 'here is Saheb Fraser, sword in hand, to push us out of our holes; a desperate tyrant he is, that Saheb Fraser!' We started about half-past eight; but they had now begun to be so anxious about commencing their return to Persia, that their heads were full of this the whole way down. I have not thought it worth while to advert to this subject of anxiety; but it was for some time been gaining ground, and was one of the causes of that listlessness and indifference to objects of amusement, which was so striking in their demeanour. No doubt it was natural that they should feel deeply anxious for the welfare of their families, and desirous to rejoin them; but yet one would have thought that, finding themselves in the greatest capital in Europe, where so many objects which they might never have another opportunity of beholding were pressed upon their view, they might have made the most of their time; but such was not the case, for, whenever a forenoon party was proposed, they first started difficulties and doubts, and, when these were done away, the reply was,—'To speak the truth, Saheb Fraser, I have neither heart nor spirits for these things.'"

Not so on more congenial occasions; such as a visit to their great friend, Sir Gore Ouseley.

"July 26.—This day the princes enjoyed a great treat; their friend, Sir G. O., who had left town, invited them to go and spend a day in the country, at his beautiful place near Beaconsfield. We reached this charming residence after a pleasant and beautiful drive, in a morning just such as we might have chosen for the purpose had we had the choice; and greatly did the poor princes, who were heartily sick of London, rejoice at getting rid, even for a few hours, of its noise, and its rattle, and its dust, and bad air. Nor could there be a more delightful contrast to all they had left behind than was furnished by the scenes to which they had come: such lawns, such grassy slopes, such velvet terraces, such forests of evergreens, such magnificent yew hedges, such woods, and noble old trees, with fine long vistas, and temples, and carving in old gray stone, and points of view, with seats to sit and gaze from! It was a happy union of the old and modern style of pleasure-ground; but so extensive! so much under shears and scythe, and yet in such good taste! nothing prim nor finical: in fact, the fine old timber, and noble growth of wood, were of themselves sufficient to impart an air of magnificence to the whole. Nor was the house unworthy of the place: a large and handsome addition had been made to the old building, giving, besides a capital dining-room, drawing-room, and saloon, twelve fine large spare bed-rooms. All these were most beautifully and tastefully furnished; and composed, on the whole, a most admirably convenient and comfortable, as well as spacious family residence. At the door of this mansion the princes were received by its master and mistress, who conducted them to the drawing-room; but after a very short while we all found ourselves strolling about upon the beautiful lawn and pleasure-

grounds behind the house. Here Timour ran and skipped about like a young kid, chasing the little pheasant chicks that were feeding about, and trying to catch them as they flew in the air; he was absolutely wild with spirits. The elder prince enjoyed himself more soberly. As for the poor wali, we had left him in town recovering from his indisposition, which had turned out to be a severe bilious attack. From the time of his arrival it was impossible to prevent him from indulging in his Persian habits of eating all manner of trash, quantities of raw cucumbers, green fruit, and other indigestible substances, which, when in the course of daily exercise, might be productive of no ill consequence, but which, confined as he was by indolence almost to his room, could not fail of producing disorder. After strolling about for some time through the extensive and beautiful grounds, we returned to the house, where a rich feast for the princes was found in Sir G.'s collection of Persian MSS., and other valuable curiosities from the East."

And, at length, when they became anxious to depart, we are told—

"During this period of dulness and ennui, it was a charity in any friend to visit them; and I made it a point to be regular in my attendance, even when I could do little to comfort them. But it was often extremely distressing to witness the low spirits of the elder prince. Every time I entered the room their countenances would brighten up, as they sat in various listless attitudes; and 'Ah! here is Saheb Fraser, with good news, I see; come, tell us what it is,' was the constant address. But Saheb Fraser had too often no good news to tell; and it was painful to mark the fall of their countenances when my own blank visage, and the 'hanoze heech khubher na darim'—as yet I have no news,' met their eyes and their ears. 'Fraser Saheb,' would the prince say with earnestness, 'is it true that you have no news—that you really know nothing? Is all going well? What, then, is the cause of delay? *Eh-Wahi!* If you had wives and children, as we have, that you had not seen for more than a year, you would know what we feel; and it is on me that all this comes; I must think for these two brothers of mine—mine is all the anxiety. *Ai Wahi! Ai Wahi!* this uncertainty is death. I am tired of this London—I can't breathe in it; I am choked—my heart is bursting. If I but knew we were to be two months here, or a year, we would make up our minds, and get some little place in the country, where we might walk and ride about; but here! *Wullah Billah!* Saheb Fraser, we shall die if we stay here; see, we are all ill already."

Natural enough was the feeling, and we are not astonished to find Mr. Fraser add,—

"It was in vain that I reasoned with him, and besought him to have patience."

The only resource which seemed to divert their ennui occasionally to the last, was a flirtation with some of our pretty women, whom they met at parties. We cannot tell how any of the ladies were affected, if at all beyond curiosity and pastime; but it appears from the narrative, that the princes were sufficiently in earnest, and would have had no objection to make these little affairs out-and-out Persian amours. Their servants did manage, in the lower scale, to get into some thorough intrigues. But we must wave the conclusion till next Saturday.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Historical Account of the Royal Exchange; chiefly compiled from Stowe and other Authorities. By Samuel Angell, author of "The Antiquities of Selinus." Illustrated with seven Engravings. London, 1838. R. Jennings.

ONE of the most timely and able accounts which any public event, such as the destruction of the Royal Exchange, could call forth. It is extremely well written; and the particulars of three centuries thus thrown together, are both curious and interesting. Illustrations from ancient dramatists give quite a zest to the antiquarian details; and, indeed, the whole pamphlet is not merely of immediate but of lasting value. We have no doubt but that the writer's wishes with regard to a reconstruction worthy of the empire and the capital, will be fulfilled (though it is now too late, from recent improvements, to think of Sir Christopher Wren's plan); and we conclude with a very original wish of our own, that the new Exchange may rise, like a phoenix, more splendid from its old ashes.

Thiers' History of the French Revolution, Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17. London, 1838. Bentley.

A PORTRAIT of Robespierre, another of Mirabeau, the attack on the Tuilleries, and a plate of the triumph of Marat, embellish these Numbers, which continue Thiers' valuable narrative in a manner most worthy of the publication.

Trifles for Leisure Hours. By M. A. Z. 12mo. pp. 290. London, 1838, Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.; Leeds, Heaton.

ABOVE a score of very agreeable and variegated essays and tales, which do much credit to the taste and talent of the anonymous writer. Both feeling and humour are displayed throughout the volume; and "The Professor," with which it concludes, is a very clever and interesting example of this class of writing.

Simplicity of Living: J. H. Curtis on Health. Second Edition. 18mo. pp. 162. (London, Renshaw; Edinburgh, Bell and Bradfute; Dublin, Curry and Co.)—We notice this second edition of Mr. Curtis's work merely to state that it has been improved by useful additions. We select two specimens—

"Persons in high life, and especially those advanced in years, who are in the habit of going to dinner-parties, &c., should set apart one or two days in a week to rest, quiet, and abstinence. It is reported of a late well-known alderman, that he used to have what he called one banyan day a-week."

"The hours of retiring to rest should be early and regular. It has been said, that if a man takes the proper quantity of sleep, it is of little consequence at what time it is taken; and some persons in high life, acting upon this false maxim, often rise at three in the afternoon, and go to bed at four in the morning; and, consequently, rarely see the sun for months together. Few plans more effective than this for shortening life can be imagined. Theatres, concerts, and late evening parties, are to be eschewed. Attendance at them is, on many accounts, highly destructive to the aged. The vitiated air, the sudden and great change of temperature, to which it exposes them, act upon them with a vastly greater power than upon the younger and more vigorous. Even young persons should not go into company every night; the excitement and late hours to which they expose themselves by so doing, soon change their youth into the appearance of old age; for no constitution can long endure such treatment. A London season in high life, constantly spent in company, is generally sufficient to undermine the health of young ladies on first coming out, if they are not very careful: they should, therefore, make a point of having two or three days of rest and quietness in each week. Music and dancing are very well in their way; but, when indulged in to excess, are highly injurious both to mind and body."

A Few Remarks on the State and Prospects of the Navy in 1838, by Captain G. Smith, R.N. Pp. 32. (London, Ridgway.)—Captain Smith is of opinion that our naval establishment is reduced too low, and shews how much the navies of France and Russia have been augmented since the peace of 1814, whilst ours has been economised without reference to a comparison with the altered position of foreign powers. He earnestly advises an early attention to this vitally important subject, as regards our diplomatic influence and power, to overawe aggression.

A Method of Concentrating the Fire of a Broadside of a Ship of War, by W. Konnigh, Carpenter, R.N. 4to. (London, John Bradley.)—With nineteen plates; this is also an important naval work, in which are suggestions—we might say, demonstrations—of infinite value to the service. We cordially recommend it to attention.

Secret Allegories, selected from Die Parabeln, by F. A. Krumacher; and translated from the German, &c. Pp. 84. (London, Darton and Harvey.)—These allegories are better fitted for German than for English tastes. Their purpose is virtuous; but the lessons rather high flown.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

FRIDAY, 2d Feb. Mr. Goadby lectured on the skeleton of insects, and dissections exhibited by a gas microscope on a new principle, invented by him; the advantages it possesses are extreme portability, facility of manipulation, and an intense and perfectly fine light, free from the coloured rings so prejudicial to definition in others. "Insects belong," Mr. Goadby prefaced, "to the *Invertebrata*, and occupy a place in the *Articulata*. Anatomists distinguish in an animal the hard from the soft parts, and in the higher orders the former become of sufficient importance to constitute a system—the bones, or skeleton. The harder may be placed either within or without the softer parts. In the invertebrated animals, with few exceptions, cuttle-fish, &c. they are placed on the external surface, affording protection to the more delicate organs, and offering their internal surfaces for the attachment of the various muscles of the body. In the articulated classes are recognised the elements of the osseous system of the higher animals: this is especially the case with insects where the hard horny external covering, whether considered in relation to its function or chemical composition, displays an almost perfect analogy. The skeleton of insects consists of three distinct layers,—the *epidermis*, smooth, shining, colourless, and transparent, perforated with minute holes through which the hairs arise: the *rete mucosum*, which, according to Strauss, consists of two layers; the superior, smooth, coloured, and closely attached to the *epidermis*; to this the beautiful colour of insects is referable, which, however, is lost in spirits of wine; the second layer is not acted upon by this agent, and is uniformly brown or black, and, by its depth, increases the intensity of the colour of the superior layer: the third is the *corium*, or leathery tunic, which is not only colourless, but displays peculiar structure. It consists of several layers of crossing fibres, which very much resemble the woody fibre of plants, and may be divided into several strata: it is in this tunic that the bulbs are which surround the roots of the hairs to which they supply nutriment. The chemical analysis of insect integument yields albumen, a peculiar substance called chitine, the chief character of which is its insolubility in caustic potash, and small portions of the phosphates of lime, magnesia, and iron. An insect is divided into three chief portions,—the head, thorax, and abdomen. As an example was exhibited the natural skeleton, or the cast skin, of the *Blatta Americana*. The head supports the oral apparatus, the organs of sense, and the antennae; the thorax comprehends all that portion situated between the head and abdomen, and consists of three segments, to each of which is articulated a pair of legs; and the last two segments have each, in addition, a pair of wings in those orders possessing two pair; thus the thorax naturally divides itself into three portions, called prothorax, mesothorax, and metathorax, each of which are subdivided, and of which, as of all, illustrations were exhibited. The third

and last portion is the abdomen, divided into its dorsal and ventral surfaces. The posterior portion of the abdomen terminates in various forms, sometimes a sting, at others a pair of jointed organs, common to the *Blattaria*, or cockroaches, called *cerci*; the use of which, however, is not known. The organisation of these three portions, the head, the *thoracide*, and the abdominal segments, were ably and minutely described, and shewn by a beautifully dissected skeleton of the water-beetle, *Dytiscus marginalis*, succeeded by the skeletons of *Halys mucrona*, a tree-bug, *Mantis religiosa*, *Latellula*, &c., and a beautiful bone, as Mr. Godby in his enthusiasm called it, the mesosternum of the ichneumon fly, which was compared to a vertebra of mammalia.

ELECTRICAL SOCIETY.

SATURDAY evening.—A communication from Martyn Roberts, Esq. was read, detailing phenomena, new to him, and seemingly of great interest, observed in the course of experiments on the application of galvanism to manufactures. A copper tube, three inches long, one inch diameter, immersed in sea-water, was connected with one end of a galvanometer; in the tube was placed a rod of zinc three inches long, half an inch diameter, in connexion with the other end of the galvanometer.

Temperature of Solution of Salt.	56° F.	Deviation of Galvanometer.	36°
—	212	—	65

Same arrangement in rain-water:

Temperature....	55° F.	Deviation....	10°
—	210	—	23

Rod of iron substituted for, and same size as zinc rod:

Temperature....	56° F.	Deviation....	15°
—	115	—	32
—	120	—	32
—	170	—	35
—	175	—	36
—	180	—	37
—	200	—	39
—	205	—	40
—	210	—	41

These facts Mr. Roberts presumed had not been before noticed, and he hoped they possessed some claims to the attention of the Electrical Society.—Read, also, the second of a series of papers, by Mr. Sturgeon, on the various classes of electrical phenomena and their laws. Before investigating the laws, Mr. Sturgeon considered it necessary to answer to himself the following enunciation. Are electrical phenomena traceable to the operations of a material elementary agent, peculiar in its character, and distinct from every other species of matter; or, can the phenomena be more easily accounted for independently of the operation of such an agent? From a close and strict examination of the various classes of electrical phenomena, mechanical, physiological, magnetic, thermometric, and chemical, and from a rigid comparison of the various ways by which these phenomena have been attempted to be explained, Mr. Sturgeon could discover none so free from ambiguity, none so truly specific, none so simple, distinct, and comprehensive—in short, none so rational, as that which admits of the agency of a purely electric matter. Dr. Franklin's theory also rests on the supposition of one electric fluid, and, as far as it extends, appears to require but very little modification to become applicable to every fact that has been developed in this branch of physics, prior to the discovery of electro-magnetism. Perhaps it is in this department of electricity alone where the Franklinian doctrine will be found materially deficient; but even here, notwithstanding its inadequacy to account for this class of phe-

nomena, it does not appear defective in itself, or physically incorrect. The principles of that doctrine are as decidedly in operation, and as conspicuously, as in any other class; and by annexing the principles of electro-magnetism and magnetic electricity to those which Franklin had previously embraced in his theory, it is possible that we should be in possession of a code of laws to the operation of which every known electrical phenomenon may be traced. The theoretical views of Mr. Sturgeon are, as he states, not very different from those embraced by the Franklinian doctrine. He acknowledges the existence of one electric fluid, whose particles mutually repel each other, but which are attractive of all other kinds of matter. By virtue of its repulsive quality the electric fluid becomes highly elastic, and has a tendency to spring with an equable force in every direction. The atmosphere is continually charged with the electric fluid, and in a greater degree as we ascend from the earth's surface. All bodies on the earth's surface are subjected to an electric pressure, by which the fluid forces itself into the pores; and, as different bodies offer different degrees of facility of admission, they necessarily become charged to different degrees of extent. Moreover, bodies generally, in their natural condition, are compounds, and, however compact they may appear, are not equally electrified, every particle of one of the constituents being in a different electrical condition from every particle of every constituent element in the compound. The difference of natural electrification does not rest here. A variation in the mechanical character of the surface of even the same kind of matter confers a different capacity for the reception of the electric fluid. Hence it becomes obvious that, unless a body be homogeneous, and of equable polish, it cannot be equally electrified throughout, or even of uniform electric tension over every part of its surface. Hence Mr. Sturgeon follows the Franklinian theory, excepting in this particular: Franklin's difference of natural electrification is confined to masses; his extends to the ultimate particles of matter. Mr. Sturgeon's series of papers, supported as they have been by explicit illustrations, and based as they will be by careful and close tests, promise to be of infinite service to the present state of electrical knowledge.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

FRIDAY 2d. W. H. White, Esq. read a paper 'On some New Species of Zoophytes and Corallines, described by Ferdinand Krauss, D. Ph. translated from the German, by D. Cooper, Esq. curator.' Baron Von Ludwig, native of Wurtemberg, a nobleman much addicted to the science of botany and natural history, presented, some months since, to the museums of his country, a large collection of objects of natural history, from the Cape of Good Hope; amongst which Dr. Krauss discovered three new species of *Amathia*, *Achamarchis*, and *Flustra*—Animalia zoophyta; Ordo II. Corallata; Tribus I. Tubulosa; Familia 5. Sertularineae. The *Sertularia* are a family of the Polypes, the nearest allied to the Tubulariae. The tubuliform, multifariously ramified trunk is hornlike, tenacious, flexible, and often of a dark colour. The soft part of the animal fills the tube like marrow, and sends out the Polypes, which are surrounded by feelers at their summit, through bell-shaped lateral openings. These animals form a continuous body, which is connected with the functions of life in such a manner, that food being given to one of them, serves as nourishment for the rest;

and this lasts until an accident separates them, when they continue to live independently of each other. To this family belongs *Amathia biseriata*, Krauss. Stipe ramosissima, dichotoma; ramis falcatis; cellulis unilaterilibus, coalescentibus, biseriatis alternantibus.—Tribus 2. Cellulosa; Familia 1. Cellulariae. The *Cellularia* are distinguished from the *Sertularia*, though as nicely and thinly branched as the latter, by the want of the inner union of the more numerous, and densely connected Polypi. Upon the flatter trunks and branches, which contain a large portion of lime, and are therefore more fragile, the cells are placed, densely fixed, separated by divisions, each division containing an independent individual within it. To the *Cellularia* belongs *Acamarchis tridentata*, Krauss. Cellulis tridentatis, ore integris. Familia 2. Flustrae. The *Flustra* are distinguished from the *Cellularia*, although of analogous structure, by the leadlike expansion of the whole skeleton, which is covered, sometimes on both sides, more frequently only on one, with a web of numberless cells, arranged like honeycombs. In well-preserved cells, there is distinctly, besides the mouth, as in the *Ascidia*, a lateral aperture, or anus, to be seen. After death, the delicate exterior fragile structure of the cells is lost, and only the parchment-like skeleton, with the posterior parietes of the cells, remains. This is the state in which most of the *Flustrae* are to be found in our museums, or described and represented in our works on natural history.—*Flustra marginata*, Krauss. Fronde dichotoma, marginata; lobis cuneatis, rotundato-truncatis; cellulis rhomboideis. Each of the new species were minutely described. The details were exceedingly interesting, and excited much attention. It was announced that the curator would deliver a course of lectures on practical botany in the early part of March, commencing one hour previous to the ordinary meetings. Adjourned.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

WE resume the Report, in order to give Dr. Lindley's observation, postponed from our *Gazette* of Jan. 27:—"I have great satisfaction in stating to the Royal Geographical Society, that some specimens of the flowers of this extraordinary plant, which have lately been received from Mr. Schomburgk, completely confirm the statement of that traveller in all essential particulars, and at the same time establish the new genus *Victoria* upon the most complete evidence. The most startling circumstance named by Mr. Schomburgk, was, that the flowers measured fifteen inches in diameter. One of the specimens now received measures fourteen inches in diameter, although its petals have rotted off, in consequence of the bad manner in which they have been prepared. With respect to the genus, it has been already mentioned in the *Journal of the Geographical Society* (vol. vii. p. 350), at my request, that, although *Victoria* is, possibly, the same as the *Euryale amazonica* of Poeppig, yet it is, in my opinion, quite distinct from the latter genus. I am not aware that any one in the country, of any botanical reputation, has called this opinion in question, and therefore it may appear unnecessary to notice it any further. But Professor Poeppig is so good a naturalist, that it is due to him to state upon what grounds I consider him to be wrong in the genus to which he referred the plant. *Euryale* is an East Indian water-plant, with very long floating leaves, sometimes as much as four feet in diameter, light purple underneath, and these articulated with numerous very large promi-

ment veins. It is, moreover, covered with sharp prickles on the under-side of the leaves, the leaf-stalks, flower-stalks, and calyx. In these particulars it agrees with *Victoria*, but in little else. *Victoria* has the inner petals rigid, and curved inwards over the stamens, into which they gradually pass; in *Euryale* there is no transition of this kind. In *Victoria* there is a double row of horn-like, sterile stamens, curving over the stigmas, and adhering firmly to their back; *Euryale* has no such structure. In *Victoria* there are thirty-six large, reniform, compressed, fleshy stigmas; in lieu of this very singular character, *Euryale* has only the margin of a cup, with six, seven, or eight crenatures. *Victoria* has thirty-six cells to the ovary; *Euryale* only from six to eight. And, finally, to say nothing of minor distinctions, the ripe fruit of *Victoria* lies at the bottom of a regularly truncated cup, which stands high above the water, while the flower of *Euryale* sinks into the water after flowering, and the fruit when ripe is invested with the decayed remains of the calyx and corolla. These facts will, I think, confirm my original statement that, notwithstanding the prickles of the leaves and stalks, the genus *Victoria* is more closely allied to *Nymphaea* than to *Euryale*, and will, I hope, set at rest all future ingenious speculations upon the first of these genera being untenable."

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE monthly general meeting of this Society was held yesterday week, J. R. Gowen, Esq. in the chair.—The attendance, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, was more numerous than on any former occasion; and a great number of ladies occupied the front seats. Several members were elected. The report of the council stated that Mr. Blyth had been appointed assistant-secretary and curator of the museum; the latter office being rendered necessary by the munificent loan of the Hon. W. F. Fiennes. Several donations were announced; among which was a collection of anatomical preparations, presented by Mr. Bartlett. It was stated, that the collection of living birds had sustained very little injury from the extreme severity of the winter; and that arrangements had been made for procuring a great number of rare and beautiful species in the course of the ensuing spring. The report having been approved, the chairman called upon Mr. Blyth to open the discussion of the subject of the day, viz. 'The Geographical Distribution of Birds.' Mr. Blyth commenced a very elaborate and interesting discourse by enumerating, 1st, a variety of groups and species which are confined to particular regions; and, 2dly, others, and some of comparatively trivial value, which are diffused over the greater portion of the world. He illustrated the subject by adducing various phenomena of geology and botany; enumerated and explained some of the more interesting analogous adaptations of different types of form, geographically separated—such, for instance, as the humming-birds of America, and the nectar-feeders of India and its islands, Africa, and Australia; took a rapid survey of the modern theories of zoological provinces, particularly commenting on Dr. Richardson's; and called attention to the following curious fact, which he was not aware had been previously announced,—viz., that those North American birds which have no generic representative in Europe, and those European genera which have no species proper to America, are, almost without exception, migratory, belonging to types of forms characteristic of those

regions where they pass the winter. Several very interesting deductions were drawn from this fact. The leading characters of the ornithology of different regions were then discussed; and, generalising upon these characters, and the facts already stated, Mr. Blyth indicated some of the laws which might be supposed to regulate and circumscribe the dispersion of particular species. We greatly regret that the limits of our report render it impossible for us to do justice to this highly interesting portion of Mr. Blyth's observations. He was heard throughout with the greatest attention, and received considerable applause at the termination of his discourse. Mr. Vigors followed; and, having stated that he hoped this highly interesting and important subject would be pursued into its subdivisions at some of the ensuing meetings of the Society, proceeded to make a few remarks upon some of its most striking points; such as the correspondence, or geographical representation, of groups and species inhabiting different localities: the ostrich, for instance, of the African desert, represented in Asia and its islands by the cassowary; in Australia, by the emu; in the Pampas of South America, by the rheu; and in Europe (as he conceived), by the bustard. It was his opinion that every prominent group had thus an analogue, or representative, in each of the principal divisions of the world; and that, in every case where such representation was wanting, the deficiency was occasioned by some sufficient and harmonious cause. As an example: the starlings were represented as inhabiting all parts of the world except Australia; the explanation of which exception is, that they seek much of their subsistence on the backs of cattle, and in Australia there are no indigenous ruminant quadrupeds. It was thus that, in many other instances, the diffusion of animals is regulated by that of their prey; this, again, by that of particular vegetables, which, in its turn, is dependent on the soil. Before Mr. Vigors concluded, he expressed a hope that at the next meeting there would be laid on the table a greater number of specimens to illustrate the subject of discussion. Mr. Chester stated that if the gentlemen who proposed to favour the Society with any scientific observations at future meetings, would apprise the council of the specimens which would be desirable for illustration, every possible exertion should be used to obtain them. 'The Geographical Distribution of the Rases, or Poultry Birds,' was announced as the subject for the next meeting.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MR. MACLEAY in the chair.—Eight fellows were elected into the Society at the meeting on Thursday afternoon.—Balance carried to account in favour of Society, to February 1st, 879l. 12s. 8d. Visitors to gardens and museum in January (cold weather), about 3000. The stock at the gardens comprises 287 quadrupeds, 773 birds, and 17 reptiles; being a decrease of 31 since December last.—A number of salutary resolutions for preventing the abuse of the ivory admission-tickets were read and approved. The little orang-outang, at the gardens, is going on well—full of fun, and perfectly at home. Amongst the presents announced was a dwarf variety of the common pig, very curious.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.
UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, February 1.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Bachelor in Civil Law.—Rev. G. K. Morrell, Fellow of St. John's College.

Masters of Arts.—C. Cobbe, Exeter College; H. B. Mayne, Student of Christ Church; Rev. F. J. Kitson, Fellow of St. John's College; Rev. T. W. Mason, Queen's College, incorporated from Trinity College, Dublin, grand compounder.

Bachelors of Arts.—G. Butt, Christ Church; T. L. Tremonger, Balliol College; G. M. Fort, I. H. Gosset, Exeter College; G. A. Blakely, S. J. Jerram, T. C. Briggs, Worcester College.

CAMBRIDGE, 31st January.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—Rev. R. W. Dibdin, St. John's College; Rev. W. Dakins, Corpus Christi College; Rev. J. Foster, Emmanuel College; R. A. Johnstone, Trinity College.

Honorary Masters of Arts.—Hon. S. Hay, Hon. H. G. Howard, Trinity College; Hon. H. C. Knight, Queen's College.

Bachelors of Arts.—Lord Lyttelton, Trinity College; J. M. Butt, Corpus Christi College; J. Watson, St. John's College.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

JANUARY 11th. David Pollock, Esq. in the chair.—The foreign secretary commenced the reading of a communication from Mr. George Finlay, addressed to the Society through Col. Leake, on the Battle of Marathon. Mr. Finlay's essay commenced with an exact and minute description of the plain, with its sepulchral "heap of gathered ground," which was the scene of that event so important to the freedom and civilisation of Greece and the whole western world. Guided by the facts stated by Herodotus, and by the profound examination of this subject by Col. Leake, the results of which were published in the first volume of the Society's Transactions, he estimated the numbers of the entire armament of Persia, when it left the Asiatic coasts, at 121,000 men; and this number, already so much below the exaggerated estimate of many writers, must have been reduced one sixth before the expedition reached Marathon. The numbers actually present at the battle could not have been more than 46,000 men; of whom only 20,000 were regular infantry, the only force that appears to have been engaged. The choice of Marathon by Datis and Artaphernes, the leaders of the expedition, seems to have been determined by the advantages afforded there for the shelter of the fleet and the immediate employment of the cavalry, as well as by the facilities it presented for an attack on Athens.

January 25th. The Duke of Sutherland in the chair.—Mr. Finlay's paper was concluded. Col. Leake thought, that the enclosure sacred to Hercules, where the Athenian army encamped on their arrival upon the plain of Marathon, was in the valley of Vrana; but Mr. Finlay assigned several reasons for the opinion, that it was somewhere near the pass under mount Argaliki; which he also thinks was the spot, mentioned by C. Nepos, where the Athenians constructed field-works of felled trees: it could have been by this road alone, the regular road from Athens to Marathon, that they advanced with so much celerity, on being informed that their enemies had disembarked upon the plain. In the absence of contemporary or authentic accounts of the numbers of the Athenian, as well as of the Persian army, all writers appear to have agreed with tradition in fixing the amount of the former at 10,000 men; various circumstances adduced by Mr. Finlay seem to warrant this being received as a fair statement. To these he adds the thousand Plateans who joined the army after its arrival at the Heracleion, though some writers include them in the 10,000. On adding to these 11,000 hoplites, the usual proportion of attendant light-armed troops, it will be found that the camp of the

Greeks contained not less than 22,000 men. The method of attack proposed by Miltiades, and adopted, shews that he must have been able to draw out his forces before the camp in line of battle, where it must have been difficult for the Persians to attack him, and impossible for them to turn his wings with their cavalry, or in any way to render their superiority of numbers available; circumstances which apply to no other spot but the lower slopes of Argaliki. Some probable reasons for the extraordinary rapidity of the attack, drawn from the peculiarity of the ground, were stated. The space (about eight stades) over which the Athenians advanced, coincides with the interval between the foot of Argaliki and the spot where the battle must have commenced. Mr. Finlay's remarks on the arrangements of Miltiades in drawing up his army in order of battle, and his narrative of the immortal conflict itself, derived, as did every part of this essay, great interest and apparent exactness from his perfect acquaintance with the locality which its occurrence has endeared to every bosom that can sympathise in the noblest and most eventful deeds recorded in the history of our race. The local knowledge which had enabled him to throw additional light upon the field of Marathon, also drew from him a fresh testimony to the accuracy of the venerable historian of Greece. "After a careful comparison of the ground upon which this battle was fought with the assertions of ancient writers, nothing," says Mr. Finlay, "can be discovered at variance with a single fact recorded by Herodotus; but there is much which confirms and explains his account." To Mr. Finlay's essay were subjoined two notes: 1. concerning the pieces of flint called Persian arrow-heads, found in the tumulus at Marathon; 2. observations on the road from Athens to the Plain of Marathon by Mesogaiia.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Mr. AMYOT in the chair.—Mr. Holmes communicated (with some prefatory remarks) a copy of a MS. tract in the British Museum, entitled "A Relation of the Success of the Love of King Henry the Fourth of France for the Princess of Condé," wife of Henry the Second, Prince of Condé, written by Sir William Becher, who resided some time in France as an envoy of the English government. Besides giving an account of the very extensive gallantries of the French monarch, it contains much historical information of the time. A portion of the paper was read, and the remainder postponed.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Royal Geographical, 9 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.; Royal Institute of British Architects, 8 P.M.
Tuesday.—Zoological, 8 P.M.; Society of Arts, 8 P.M. (Mr. Brocken on the application of Machinery to Engraving in Relief); Royal Medical and Chirurgical, 8 P.M.; Institute of Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.; Architectural Society, 8 P.M.
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 7 P.M.; Medico-Botanical, 8 P.M.
Thursday.—Royal Society, 8 P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8 P.M.; Botanical, 8 P.M.
Saturday.—Royal Asiatic, 2 P.M.; Electrical, 7 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PAUL MALL.

In our last Number we adverted to the approaching opening of the annual Exhibition of the works of living artists, at the British Gallery in Pall Mall. Wednesday was the day of the private view, and on Thursday the public were admitted.

It is painful to see on the walls so many fine

performances which have already appeared at the Exhibitions of the Royal Academy and elsewhere. The reproach many years ago cast upon our men of rank and opulence by the present highly gifted President of the Academy, still continues to be but too just:

"In vain Art's toiling sons their stores unfold,
 Each eye is vacant, and each heart is cold."

How is it, for instance, that such admirable works as No. 53, *The Death of Douglas at the Battle of Langside*, C. Landseer, A.R.A.; No. 61, *The Mendicants*, R. Rothwell; No. 98, *The Lucky Escape*, W. F. Witherington, A.R.A.; No. 154, *The Chamber of Death*, T. Uwins, A.R.A.; No. 284, *The Feast of the Gipsies*, D. Maclise, A.R.A., &c., remain on the hands of the able artists by whom they were produced? What can tend more effectually to damp the ardour of the youthful student?

But, although there is much in this Exhibition which has been seen before, there is also much of novel excellence. One of its principal features consists of what may be called sporting subjects. The modern Nimrod, or Isaac Walton, will be delighted with the spirited and faithful representations of the four-footed, the feathered, and the finny tribes, which meet his eye in every direction. We will begin our notice by particularising a few of them.

No. 361, *The Pointer*; No. 366, *Fallow Deer*; No. 372, *The Two Dogs*. Edwin Landseer, R.A.—Of the first of these fine performances we cannot sufficiently express our admiration. The head is absolutely alive; the manner in which, with its various accessories, it is executed, affords one of the best specimens of harmonious colouring and fluent pencilling, that we remember to have seen. The business-like manner in which the animal pursues his vocation is delightful. The Fallow Deer are equally excellent. The noble bearing, and the bounding freedom, of these beautiful tenants of the forest were never more truly depicted. So delusively is this picture painted, and so skilfully is it handled, that it reminds us of some lines attached to a head of Shakspeare, prefixed to an old edition of his plays:

—"The graver had a strife
 With nature to out-do the life."

In *The Two Dogs* there is a grandeur of composition (to say nothing of other qualities) rarely to be met with in subjects of this description.

No. 449, *Green Plover*; No. 450, *Wild Duck*; No. 451, *Pike and other Fish*, F. R. Lee, A.R.A.—Each perfect in its way.

No. 134, *Fishing Boats, with Hucksters bargaining for Fish*. J. M. W. Turner, R.A.—There are always passages in this great artist's works above all praise; there are others that cannot but provoke criticism. Who that looks upon the broad and bold effect brought to bear on this subject, and on the natural and translucent character of the waves, and the sombre tone of the threatening atmosphere, but must feel the powers of the painter—while he laments that the effect of so fine a work is so much deteriorated by the introduction of such crude and gaudy colours?

No. 14, *Murano*. Sir A. W. Callcott, R.A.—After a storm, it is said, comes a calm. In our various pictorial surveys, we often find an opportunity of bringing the one and the other into juxtaposition. We do so in the present instance. The grateful tenderness and repose of this beautiful view of an Italian port, charming in themselves, are enhanced in value by their contrast with the turbulence of the last-mentioned work.

No. 174, *Winning the Game*, J. C. Horsley.

—In his picture of *The Rent Day* at Haddon Hall, exhibited in the Gallery last year, Mr. Horsley tasked his powers to no ordinary degree. We were prepared to expect this year another specimen of his talents in a similar way, and we have not been disappointed. The picturesque character of the apartment, with its antique furniture and decorations, is finely set off by the singularly skilful management of the light. In the foreground an aged pair are engaged at a game of chess. The old gentleman is evidently puzzled; and his successful antagonist, while she quietly takes a pinch of snuff to fill up the pause of his consideration and difficulty, regards him with a sly look of conscious triumph that is exceedingly provoking. A beautiful girl, standing at the table, has her attention attracted by two youthful lovers in the back-ground, who seem to be playing at another description of game, in which, we dare say, neither of them feels indisposed to "mate" the other.

No. 358, *The Avenue*. T. Creswick.—The composition is grand, the foliage is exquisitely executed, and the whole has an air of truth and nature which cannot be surpassed. Mr. Creswick has embellished his scene by the introduction of several figures in a costume that reminds us of Watteau.

No. 52, *Una Masthera*. Mrs. J. Robertson.—Are we mistaken in fancying this to be a portrait of the charming daughter of one of our ablest landscape and architectural draftsman and painters? However that may be, we never saw a countenance which, if we were to write a novel or romance, we should be more disposed to prefix to our volumes as a representation of their heroine. Intelligence, grace, and idealism, are united in it.

No. 242, *A View from Richmond Hill—Spring*. T. C. Hofland.—On casting our eyes round the Gallery this year, we were induced to exclaim with Richard,—

"I think there be six Richmonds in the field."

Without meaning to depreciate the other representations of this enchanting scene (several of which are full of beauty), we may be allowed to remark, that the morning freshness which pervades Mr. Hofland's performance, combined with the gaiety and animation of the figures by which it is peopled, communicate to it great interest.

No. 164, *A Looking-glass Reflection*. H. P. Parker.—We have never failed to find both matter and manner to admire in this artist's works. We are glad, on this occasion, to repeat our former commendations; and we especially congratulate him on the novelty of his subject, as well as on the happy way in which he has treated it.

[To be continued.]

BIOGRAPHY.

EDWARD WILLIAMS, ESQ.

It is with severe sorrow, we add the death of Mr. Williams to the portentous list of publishers and booksellers who have died within a short period of time. Mr. Williams was the publisher for Eton School (where, a few years since, his son was captain), and in Eton and London there was no man more esteemed and respected. In business his character was of the highest class; and in the intercourse of society he was greatly prized for his kind and amiable manners. He was one of the Literary Fund committee, and a constant friend to that admirable institution. His death was occasioned by an accident: he slipped and fell on a slide in the street, which led to the illness

that terminated so fatally. Mr. Williams has left a numerous family, as well as many sincere friends, to lament his loss.

Sir Daniel Sandford, who represented Glasgow for a short time in parliament, but soon retired from the drudgery of the House to his more congenial books and studies, died at Glasgow, of typhus fever, on the 4th. He was one of the most accomplished scholars of Scotland, and the author of several learned works.

SKETCHES.

WEATHER WISDOM.

THE correspondence of both the Weather Prophets of the day, which we subjoin, leads us to offer one or two brief remarks on the subject. When we began to notice these predictions—now about eighteen months ago—we observed, that whatever ridicule had been thrown upon such prognostications as those in Moore's Almanack, yet that the science of Meteorology had been in so uncertain a state, and was so capable of great improvement, that we were not at all disposed to treat every attempt at predicting the probable nature of the weather as idle and preposterous. We supposed it possible that long observation might lead to the approximation of data which might be of considerable importance; and when we found such philosophers as M. Arago entering into similar views, we were satisfied with the propriety of these opinions. The explanations of Messrs. Morrison and Murphy are given below; and, on whatever grounds they calculate, there is, at least, the test occurring daily by which to try their accuracy. It would be absurd to expect the precise results which they (we think, rather too boldly) pretend to fix almost to an hour, and, certainly, to a day; but if either of them, or any one else, could establish a system upon which we could foretell that such a month or such a season would be wet or dry—whether the prevalence of weather would be stormy or settled—whether there would be nipping frosts or warm and temperate nights—it is quite obvious that the farmer, gardener, manufacturer, seaman, as well as other classes, might reap much benefit from the foreknowledge.

Having said this much, we now cast a retrospect on the past week:

Morrison.	Murphy.	Actual Facts.
3d. Rain and Wind.		Frost and clear, with a slight fall of snow.
4th. Rain and Fog. Changeable		The same; no snow.
5th. Change..... Changeable		The same, with a slight snow.
6th. Close: misty } Fair air: mild		Frost: clear. At midnight a fall of snow, and hard frost.
7th. Mild tem- } Changeable perature.....		Morning: great thaw; and rain towards evening. Fine morning. Afternoon, rain, with stormy wind.
8th. Change..... Rain		Thick weather, rainy, and close temperature.
9th. Fall of 8° or } Rain and Wind. 16° in thermo- meter.....		

Our readers will make their own of these hits and misses, while we add the prophecies for the week to come:—

"The 10th threatens snow, cold and gloomy air. Changes on the 12th night; and again on the 13th, more temperate, yet there are tokens of S.W. gales; the weather being very unsettled, as Mars and the Sun approach the square of Saturn. The 15th and 17th very stormy, with frequent snow-showers; the latter day gloomy and very cold—the night frost or snow: severe gales about this date."—*Morrison*.
"Saturday, 10th, fair; 11th, changeable; 12th,

rain and wind; 13th, fair; 14th, rain and wind; 15th, changeable; 16th, rain."—*Murphy*.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Cheltenham, Feb. 6, 1838.

SIR,—Will you permit me to trouble you with a few words on the severe and continued frost? My predictions of the weather for some days have been erroneous, owing, I believe, to the season being extraordinary; and which I attribute to the reaction in the atmosphere occasioned by the great comet leaving our system. In my pamphlet on that comet's history, &c. (a copy of which I enclose), printed originally in 1834, I foretold that "the winters of 1836 or 1837 will bring a frost such as has not been equalled for at least twenty years." But, owing to the extreme length and severity of last winter, all over the world, snow having fallen even in Canton, Africa, &c., I conceived that the comet's effects had then ceased, and did not, therefore, expect the present severe frost. This phenomenon has justified my prediction, and confirmed the inference drawn from former observations, during eight previous returns of Halley's comet to the sun. In 1834 I observed that, "the singular fact of such extraordinary frosts at the precise period of the comet leaving the vicinity of the earth, must, at least, attract attention. We find a frost which bound up the Mediterranean Sea, though situated so far south, after the comet's appearance of 1831; again, after its next return in 1806, we read of the Baltic Sea being frozen over for fourteen weeks; again, after its visit of 1456, we learn that the ice extended from Mecklenburg to Denmark; again, after its return in 1607, we are told that 'a winter of uncommon severity followed all over the world'; then came the return of 1682, followed by that frost, of thirteen weeks' duration, which was predicted to King Charles II.; lastly, the latest return of the comet, which is still remembered by some very old people, from the circumstance of that notable frost, long spoken of as the black frost, which endured no less than ninety-four days, or over three months! Hence, we have records of severe frosts immediately succeeding the appearance of the comet, six times out of eight. The appearances followed by these phenomena have been those of 1231, 1306, 1456, 1607, 1682, and 1759; and the other two instances may have been similar in nature, though, perhaps, not in extent, and so may there have been others, of which records to which we have had access." We may now say that, out of nine returns of the comet, we have seven instances recorded of severe and extraordinary frosts occurring upon its leaving the vicinity of the earth. I submit, therefore, that this cannot be the result of chance, and that whatever be the cause, and whether my hypothesis of a derangement of the ethereal fluid be true or not, I may repeat, that "there follow intolerably cold and such memorable frosts as we have seen do always succeed the visitations of this large comet." If called on for an opinion, I should say (judging from former instances), that the frost will not quit us till the sun be past the conjunction of Herschel, which will be the end of this month. Such aspects as tend to abate the cold pass by, with hardly a perceptible effect, owing to the comet's contrary and powerful action. I must repeat, that I do not pretend to a knowledge of more than the mere elements of astral influence on the atmosphere; and though there be many here in which I can be certain as to the effects which will occur, there are also many on which I am equally uncertain. Perhaps fifty years' further observation will still leave much to be ascertained.—Yours, &c. R. J. MORRISON, Lieut. R. N.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

London, February 7th, 1838.

SIR,—Your being in the habit, weekly, of introducing in your columns a parallel, or comparison between the predictions of the weather in my "Weather Almanac," and those of Lieut. Morrison, in that published by him, induces me to trouble you with the following short observations, viz.: you are probably aware, that as early as the 10th of October last my Almanac had already passed through the press (as, if I mistake not, a copy of it was forwarded to you on that day); whereas, Mr. Morrison's Almanac did not appear till about the beginning of January; and that, thus, from the interval which elapsed between the publication of the two, it was fully in his power (if so disposed) to transfer to his pages, and give to the world as his own, such part of the property of another as he might have thought convenient. And, consequently, as the facts are as stated, however I may be disposed to exonerate him from having had recourse to so unworthy a means, it is not so easy for him to free himself from the imputation with the public: and thus, under these circumstances, it is hardly fair to admit of comparisons of the kind. For, though I acquit him of the charge—as piracy of the kind as would appear, in the order of the day, an instance of which, and connected with the same subject, appears in the last Number of the *Cheltenham Looker-on* (which I the more freely notice as I perceive you are in the habit of taking it in), and as Francis Moore, physician, or any other who thought it for his advantage to dabble in predictions of the weather, might by such a course, palm on the world a similar species of traffic, were the circumstance allowed to pass over unnoticed—this it is which chiefly induces me to address you on this subject, and to request (with your accustomed politeness) that you will be so good as to notice it in the columns of the *Gazette*; and further to express my wish, that, in the event of Mr. Morrison continuing to

favour the world with his annual (as I sincerely hope he will), he may in future be a little more reasonable in bringing it forward, so that no imputation of the kind alluded to can be fairly charged to him; my motto in this, as in other things, being, "A clear field and no favour. I am, &c. P. MURPHY.

A SEASONABLE SONG.*

HAIL! month of love, when little birds comparing
Their little notes, do choose their little mates;
At least they used to, ere the season, wearing
A snow-pelisse, forbade their wedding fêtes.
Reign, month of valentines! effusions tender,
Like Etna glowing amid frost and snow;
Rain has no damper for each nameless sender,
Whether or not the postman's sure to go.
'Tis said that comets make the seasons vary—
I wish they'd take a turn 'mid other spheres;
Oh! why has Winter seized thee, February?
The months are all "together by the ears."
Winter, the nut-brown smile of Autumn stealing,
[awakes,
Creeps upon Spring, and, when each bud
Tears off the mask, the sap of earth congealing,
He laughs in storms to see the wreck he makes.
Spring wanders into Summer quite demented;
Who, all impatient, weaves her flowery crown,
And throws a leaf-green robe on, new invented,
When Autumn used to come to do her brown.
Yea! Summer treads upon the corns of Autumn,
Who, for his harvest-home, now makes a point
Of borrowing Winter's house, where first we
Caught 'em
Twisting the year's four quarters out of joint.
Ye moon-struck months! the good old plan
You all
Once patronised in moving is no more:
Ye comets! keep your tails from this our
annual,
And let us have the seasons as before.

RICHARD JOHNS.

ANOTHER:—A FROST.

KING Frost has come from out his den, triumphantly he rides;
He stays the rivers in their course, and stems the gushing tides;
His cloak is woven of the ice, his beard is white with snow; [as they go,
The East winds follow in his wake, and whistle
Nought cares he for the noonday sun, whose beams are weak and pale;
The moon and stars are powerless; he gains strength from the gale.
Sometimes he wears a sky-blue dress, sometimes a heavy cloud [fleecy shroud.
Hangs o'er his limbs, and mantles him, as in a
His very breath is chill as death; the little birds who sing
Their winter song, before him droop with slow and stiffened wing.
The mice are frozen in their nests; the mole may not withstand [cold hand.
The wintry glaring of his eye; the touch of his
We see him come; we seek our homes; we heap coals on the grate;
And covering o'er the blaze we sit, and of his doings prate.
What, though he ride the storm without! we reckon not of the blast, [and fast.
But only send the wine-cup round more cheerily
He knocketh vainly at our gate; he may not come within; [his chin.
Our fire would thaw the icicles which hang upon

* St. Valentine's day falls on Wednesday next.—*Ed. L. G.*

And though through crack or cranny-hole, he chance to make his way,
None bid him welcome to our feast, no voice doth urge his stay.

He wanders forth, he is not proud, he seeketh out the poor; [across his floor.

He takes the beggar by the hand, and walks He sits him down beside his hearth, an uninvited guest, [his place of rest.

And lays him down at night, to sleep within Cold comfort hath King Frost for those who venture through the street;

He makes the pavement slippery beneath the old man's feet:

And though the houseless mother weeps, and though her children moan,

He thrusts his hand beneath their rags, and nips them to the bone.

Alas! he is a mighty King, and cruel in his might; [for his right.

Nor yields he till the thaw comes down to battle Then doth he gather up his train, and speeds back to the north, [to come forth.

To sleep, till Winter wakes again, and calls him H. J. M.

MUSIC.

Exeter Hall.—On Wednesday, Mr. Perry's oratorio, "The Fall of Jerusalem," performed by the Sacred Harmonic Society, attracted an immense crowd, and seemed to give much pleasure. Some good choruses, well sung, and some sweet and more ballad-like than sacred solos, tempted the audience to encore. We think several parts of this performance likely to become favourites as selections in miscellaneous oratorios.

Hanover Square Rooms.—Classical concerts, by wind instruments.—The first of three of these concerts took place too late last week for our notice. In our opinion, a more agreeable evening could not be passed than in listening to the exquisite sounds of these voice-like instruments, played as they are to almost perfection, by Puzzi, Sedlatzek, Barret, &c. &c., and enlivened by the sweet tones of F. Lablache, Catone, and the ever-musical Fanny Wyndham, who, on this occasion, sang Mozart's "L'Addio" in the purest style. The room was well filled. The second concert will take place on the 23d instant.

DRAMA.

Drury Lane.—On Monday, Mr. Kean, after playing *Hamlet* successfully for twelve or thirteen nights, made an equally successful *début* in *Richard the Third*. The house was crowded; the queen was there; and the applause was continued throughout every part of the play.

Covent Garden.—*Lear*, on Wednesday, was repeated with, if possible, increased effect. It is a glorious performance.

St. James's.—*'Tis She*, a new burletta, has been very attractive during the week. It is full of drollery, and Mrs. Stirling, with a character (or rather three characters, of maid, wife, and widow) well suited to her talents, performs it admirably. The other parts are also ably sustained by Wright, Gardner, J. Webster, &c. and constant laughter rewards their efforts throughout. Braham, too, has been singing his old popular songs nightly; and the theatre has, in consequence, been always well filled.

VARITIES.

Seamen's Hospital.—We cannot see the annual meeting of the supporters of this charity mentioned in the daily newspapers,

without saying a few words to direct the public attention to so truly philanthropic and admirable an association. Thousands and tens of thousands of the gay and wealthy, as well as of the laborious and less favoured classes, who pass to and fro on that mighty highway, the Thames, see the old *Dreadnought* lying at Greenwich, grand and imposing even in her dismantled state, and little know or think of the beneficent purposes to which her floating leviathan bulk is now devoted. No more bearing the British thunder to quell proud foes wherever ocean rolls, she is given to a yet higher and holier British object. She is a Hospital! sustained by voluntary bounty, for the relief of seamen of all nations. She is no longer the appalling adversary, but she is the friend and benefactor of mankind. Ever open to the voice of misery, the distressed have but to approach her side and utter their complaint, when, without extraneous recommendation or introduction, they are immediately received on board, their wants cared for, and their ailments ministered to, by every means which humanity and skill can supply. This is a noble Charity, and worthy of England. The good it does surpasses description; need we add a syllable more? No.

Galvanic Telegraph.—This invention has been tried, on a rather extended scale, by the King of Bavaria, at Munich, and is stated to have perfectly succeeded. The experiment was conducted over houses and churches, &c.; but wires are now to be laid down in tubes, and the whole apparatus under ground. How stand our able countryman, Mr. Wheatstone's, grand experiments?

French Notions of Machinery!—A very droll instance of this kind recently occurred at Havre, to which port an *iron garden-roller* was sent from England; but the gentleman, for whom it was imported, has been obliged to write to the maker for a certificate of its uses, in consequence, says his letter, of its having been seized by the Custom House officers, as *une machine sans vapour pour la fabrication des aiguilles et des épingles*. We believe it would puzzle even French ingenuity to make needles and pins with a garden-roller!

Preservation of Important Papers, Cash, &c. in Cases of Fire.—The heavy losses recently sustained in this way, have given rise to many ingenious suggestions for the preservation of property of this sort; and we hear of bankers, and others, who sink their iron chests in deep pits or wells, every evening, and have them drawn up for daily use every morning. Under such circumstances, it has occurred to us, that a very simple remedy might be applied to save all this trouble. It should consist of a common small crane, sufficiently strong to sustain the weight of the chest; which, being hung to it by cords, and suspended over the pit or well (which might be covered with a thin boarding so as to resemble the rest of the floor), would yield its burden to the effects of the first approach of the fire, and the chest, undamaged, would fall and sink, by its own gravity, into the cavity below, where it would be perfectly safe. The ease of moving it about during the day by merely pulling the crane to and from the wall, need hardly be pointed out as an additional recommendation of such a plan.—*Ed. L. G.*

Mr. Faraday.—We are glad to see, by an advertisement in another page, that a portrait of this distinguished and most estimable individual is forthcoming, from the burin of Charles Turner. It is pretty certain that, when talent is employed on talent, there is a degree of excitement which generally tends to the production of an excellent work. We look for no less when such an artist as C. Turner is employed on the portrait of such a genius as Mr. Faraday.

Expeditious Travelling.—Mr. Waghorn has arrived in London, in eleven days, from Malta, *viâ* Paris. We look soon to take a trip to Jerusalem and back, between the publication of two of our sequent *Gazettes*.

Caricatures.—*H. B. encore!* No. 516, "The Royal Cosset," is a capital group, or rather, we might say, flock of lambs, with our fair young queen, as a farmer's daughter, feeding the foremost with ears of corn. The Cosset Lamb (Lord Melbourne) is looking up very fondly, as any pet would; for *Cosset*, according to Ash, means, "a lamb brought up by hand, a *tidling*," whilst Lord J. Russell, Mr. Spring Rice, Sir John Hobhouse, &c. are pressing on in the hope of obtaining a snatch. Lord Glenelg is lying down dreamily; and Lord Brougham is retreating like a black sheep, with a label from his mouth, "My tongue is not hung to courtly airs; I can't gloze." Altogether, this is about one of the very best of the long series. 517, "The Lion's share" of Irish patronage, has O'Connell as a lion cajoling a fox, and an ass in the distance. The fox is presumed to be the Lord Lieutenant, but the likeness is not a striking one.

Lord Farnborough's Pictures.—Though we stated, that there was no such agreement as mentioned in the papers, relative to the bequest of Lord Farnborough's collection of pictures to the National Gallery, we may now say, that, with his well-known and patriotic love of the fine arts, his lordship has bequeathed his celebrated Canaletti (one of the finest in existence), and other two of his best paintings, to adorn this national institution.

College of Physicians.—At the first meeting of the season on Monday, which was splendidly attended, Sir H. Hallford read a very interesting lecture, in which he insisted on the expediency of religious missionaries among uncivilised people being instructed in the elements of medical knowledge. Nothing could render their labours more acceptable, nor more facilitate the attainment of their benevolent objects.

Tablet of Abydos.—We congratulate our country on the safe arrival and deposit of this most important document of antiquity; a record of the utmost consequence to Egyptian history, and the early history of mankind, in the British Museum. Such things truly belong to the wealth of nations; and justice to the present government demands a public testimony and acknowledgment of their liberality in all such matters which come within their ministerial powers.

The Sunbeam, No. 1. Vol. I.—A new periodical companion is before us. It is bold to anticipate a volume; but this is a pretty, musical, and royal, as well as literary, medley. With its shining name, it promises much attention to the court and its fair head; and its first Number is a very fair specimen, finishing with a sweet ballad composed by John Barnett.

Child's own Bible, Part I. (Longman and Co.)—Drawings by Brooke familiarly illustrate this selection of sacred history and Bible stories for the young. It is a cheap, and promises to be a most useful and popular publication.

Mr. Blagrove.—The Leipzig "Allgemeine Zeitung" contains the following paragraph, under Correspondence from Vienna: "Vienna, Jan. 7. Our ever-musical town revels at this moment with more vivacity than ever in the enjoyment of sweet sounds, the carnival being

on the point of commencing. Every week may count its four concerts at least, given by the most eminent artists. The attention of the public is particularly taken up by the appearance of two rare artists, namely, the pianiste, Mlle. Clara Wieck, from Leipzig, and the violinist, Mr. Blagrove, from London. They have been performing constantly to crowded audiences, and with raised prices. With the exception of the 'talented' young Englishman, Blagrove, I have never heard a violin player who combined in so high a degree the sweetness and delicacy of a Vieuxtemps to the astounding bravura of a Paganini. He has already left us, and is now gone, we hear, preceded by a reputation of no ordinary kind, to Leipzig."

Canal of the Arno at Tivoli.—The frequent overflows of the Arno having carried away a large portion of the beautiful Tower of Tivoli, and ultimately threatening the ruin of all that remained, it was at length found to be absolutely necessary to divert the course of the river, and to conduct it by a new channel to the valley into which it flows. Of various plans proposed on the occasion, that of the Chevalier Folchi, an eminent Italian engineer, was chosen. His suggestion was to open a double gallery in *Monte Caffio* for the passage of the river, in such a manner as should preserve all the picturesque beauty of the ancient course of the Arno, while it protected the town and its immediate neighbourhood from the inconvenience and perils of that course. Under the auspices of Pope Gregory XVI. the Chevalier Folchi's plan has been carried into effect; and the result has completely justified every expectation entertained respecting it. In the progress of the undertaking, an antique *sepolcro* was discovered, the remains of which have been preserved with great care. A species of lithographic stone, and two kinds of marble, of singular beauty, were also found.

HUMAN RESOLVES.

"What mockeries are our most firm resolves!
To will is ours, but not to execute.
We map our future like some unknown coast,
And say, 'Here is an harbour, here a rock—
The one we will attain, the other shun'—
And we do neither. Some chance gauge springs up
And bears us far o'er some unfathomed sea,
Our efforts are all vain; at length we yield
To winds and waves, that laugh at man's control."
Edith Churchill.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

In the Press.

The Dramatic Works of William Shakspeare in one volume, uniform with the "Curiosities of Literature," with a Life, by Thomas Campbell. Also, as a Companion to the above, the Dramatic Works of Beaumont and Fletcher, with a Life, by Thomas Campbell.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1836.

Febru.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Tuesday ... 1	From 29 to 33	29.06 to 30.25
Friday ... 2	... 29.5 to 35	30.19 to 30.25
Saturday ... 3	... 20 to 35	29.27 stationary
Sunday ... 4	... 19 to 31	30.26 to 30.23
Monday ... 5	... 19 to 35	30.19 to 30.12
Tuesday ... 6	... 21 to 33	30.01 to 29.75
Wednesday 7	... 27 to 42	29.53 to 29.25

Winds, N.E. and S.E.

Except the 3d and 4th, and morning of the 5th, and following day, generally cloudy; rain on the 1st: a little snow on the 3d and 5th; a very heavy fall of hail on the evening of the 6th; and rain on the 7th.

Rain fallen, .275 of an inch.

Edmonton. CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

Extracts from a Meteorological Register kept at High Wycombe, Bucks, by a Member of the Meteorological Society. January 1836.

Thermometer—Highest..... 45.00 .. the 29th.

Lowest..... 01.00 .. 19th.

Mean..... 25.61693

Barometer—Highest..... 30.49 .. 8th.

Lowest..... 29.02 .. 27th.

Mean..... 29.60075

Number of days of rain and snow, 10.

Quantity of rain and melted snow, in inches and decimals, 0.3625.

Winds.—4 North-East—8 East—2 South-East—1 South—3 South-West—2 West—5 North-West—1 North.

General Observations.—So great an extreme of cold has not been experienced at Wycombe during the journalist's residence, nearly fifteen years, as occurred on the 19th, when the thermometer fell to 01, about half-past 7 P.M.: rose again until 9 P.M., when it stood at 04° 50', and fell in the night to 01. The mean of the month was lower by 3° 31' than any one, in the same month, during the period referred to; and the minimum was a degree and a quarter lower than in February 1830, which was the lowest that had been observed previously at Wycombe. From the 8th to the 21st the thermometer never rose above the freezing point; and, although snow fell several times between the 9th and the 20th, the whole quantity, if added together, would have been little more than an inch and a quarter in depth. The barometer was very variable, and fell rapidly before the extreme of cold occurred, and continued falling until the 27th, after which it rose gradually until the end of the month; the quantity of rain and melted snow was only 0.3625, more than one-half of which was rain, which fell on the 1st and 2d. The month may be denominated dry, bleak, and extremely cold, with the wind chiefly from the northward and eastward. Frosty fog prevailed very generally.

Observing in the *Literary Gazette* of Feb. 3, the Meteorological Observations from Edmonton, the keeper of a journal at Cobham, Surrey, is induced to send the following:—A thermometer on a post facing the north, and about four feet from the grass, was down, on the night of January 12th, to 7°; 12th, to zero; 19th, to 10° below zero. Since commencement of the journal in 1825, 7, on the night of February 5, 1830, had been the lowest observed. In Forster's "Atmospheric Phenomenon," 3d edition, 1823, he mentions, pages 398 and 406, his thermometer at Tunbridge having been down, on the night of January 14, 1830, to 10° below zero. Cobham, Surrey, Feb. 5, 1836.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Machine Ruling.—We have been threatened, both by letter and by public advertisement, with an action by Mr. Vincent Nolte, for our remarks upon his plate engraved by machinery, from "The Last Supper," after Leonardo da Vinci; and we are charged with having imputed fraud to Mr. Nolte. We hesitate not a moment to say, that we certainly never intended to make such a charge. The print was subscribed with the initials of "W. P. and E. W. W., British artists;" meaning, we never doubted, William Pitts and Edward W. Wyon. Nor did we doubt that they had really modelled it. Our remarks applied simply to the machinery. We read the lettering on the engraving under the idea that it was intended to convey a British character to the whole work; and as Mr. Nolte and Mr. Collas had ever been identified in former productions, we could have no notion that the connexion was at an end, which is, indeed, only announced in Mr. Nolte's advertisement, yesterday.

We cannot print "The Soul." Aliens has many pensive thoughts, but there is a want of some polish, and with a want of room.

We cannot spare our but too limited space for the controversy continued in Mr. Margary's communication.

The communication from Kennington Green in our next.

The Protestant Lady's notice is an advertisement. Mr. Binham is under consideration.

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King's College, London, 8th College, 1836.

H. J. ROSE, B.D. Principal.

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Ave Maria Lane, 5th Feb., 1836.

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Condition of the Church.—The Metropolitan University and Dr. Pyle Smith.—Irish National System of Education.—Edinburgh Review on Church Rates.—Additional Curate's Fund.—Rev. R. Mainland on Fox's Acts and Monuments.—Account of the Ecclesiastical Historians.—Conversion of John Chauler, a Dominican Monk.—Scripture Readers in the Dark Ages.—Disposal of Higher Church Preferences.—Sacred Poetry.—Correspondence, on the Church of the Fathers.—Meaning of the Benediction.—Officialising Minister's Reception of the Eucharist.—Baptism.—Sponsors.—The Record.—Rev. Dr. Elington on the Fifth of November Service.—Clerical Attendance at Balls, &c. &c.

The following is a summary of the usual contents of "The British Magazine," Vols. XI. and XII., of which, with a copious Index, are just completed.
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